



The World's First Organized Yo-Yo Association • Setting the Industry Standards

# AYYA NEWSLETTER

WWW.AYYA.NET

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Photo Courtesy Gregory Cohen



Photo by Hiroshi Mii



Photo by Joe Mitchell



## Lowe, Oliver and Myrberg Join AYYA Hall-Of-Fame

By Joe Mitchell

1932 World YoYo Champion Harvey Lowe joined National Grandmasters Dale Myrberg and Dale Oliver as the 2005 inductees into the AYYA Hall-Of-Fame - as voted in by the Active Members of the AYYA. They received the top two number of votes in a very tight election. Each year, the Active Members of the AYYA get to choose from people nominated by the AYYA Hall-Of-Fame nominating committee. People receiving the top two vote totals and/or anyone receiving 75% of the votes cast are elected into the AYYA Hall-Of-Fame. Oliver and Myrberg were in attendance at the 2005 World YoYo Contest and were awarded their plaques at the event. The 2006 class will be elected in the May 2006 issue, and the awards will be presented at the 2006 National YoYo Contest.

Harvey Lowe was one of the first Yo-Yo demonstrators for the Cheerio Yo-Yo company of Canada. Harvey at age 13 won the 1932 World Yo-Yo championships hosted by Cheerio in London England beating out the legendary Canadian Joe Young. It has been said that his hands were insured by Cheerio for \$150,000. Since that time he has continued to play and demonstrate the yo-yo. He has made multiple television appearances including the 1989 Smothers Brothers special which featured several legendary yo-yo players. He made many appearances in the "Return of the Yo-Yo Traveling Show" in 1990. He has also made an appearance in the movie (documentary) "Who is Albert Woo." In 2000 he was honored as the grand Marshal of the world yo-yo championships. 2004 Hall-Of-Famer Bob Rule said about Harvey "I met Harvey in 1988 while we were taping the Smothers Brothers show "Masters of Yo." What a player he is! I was amazed at his ability. A welcome addition to the Hall."

Dale Myrberg began his yo-yo career demonstrating for Duncan in 1954 at the ripe old age of 13. By the age of 15 he was the top player in Utah. Fol-

lowing a hiatus of nearly twenty years he picked up the yo-yos again and never looked back. Demonstrating for Duncan and Hummingbird he found he preferred entertaining over demonstrating. In 1988 he performed on the Smothers Brothers Show along with yo-yo legends, Harvey Lowe, Barney Akers and Bob Rule. He organized the return of the Utah State yo-yo championships in 1989. He was runner up in the first modern world yo-yo championships held in Montreal in 1992 and later won the world championships in 1996 (the oldest person to win a world title). At one time he held six AYYA open world records, the most any one person has held at once. He has generously given his time in support of the yo-yo movement virtually never missing the nationals and world championships which he has been a frequent judge. In 1995 he was one of the first three to be honored with the National Masters title and in 2001 he was elevated to the title of National Grand Master. Rule on Myrberg - "I met Dale in 1988 while we were taping the Smothers Brothers show. He was a genuine nice person and picking everyone's brain's about tricks. (Barney Akers, Harvey Lowe and myself.) A lot of his routine today is scattered with tricks he learned that weekend. I think he is one of the best entertainers in Yo World today. He is a great addition to the Hall."

Dale Oliver started with Duncan as a part time pro in 1955. In 1957 he became a traveling pro and has been a yo-yo professional ever since. He founded his own yo-yo company, Oliver Toys, in 1995 which is now known as Spintastics and has developed a school program, "Yo-Yo Fun and the Science of Spin" which teaches yo-yoing to more than 40,000 children a year. A true dynamo, Oliver, over the years has set world records, been a world champion, been recipient of the "National Master"

*Continued on next page*

**AYYA Mission statement** The mission of AYYA is to provide a venue for players and collectors to come together in fellowship and to engage in the promotion of yo-yo playing as an art form and a sport, for both amateur and professional players. It is also to render assistance to fellow yo-yo players and collectors; to provide an accessible source of information about yo-yo people and events; to conduct as many competitions as possible across the nation; and to establish uniform standards for running AYYA sanctioned competitions for all levels of skill from the novice to the professional.

## AYYA Annual Meeting Set for Chico

The AYYA's annual meeting will be held on Friday, September 30th at 3:00 at the Holiday Inn. All AYYA members or interested yoyoers are invited to attend. Come meet other AYYA members, voice your opinion on the AYYA and pick up the 2005 Edition of the AYYA YoYo (see page 16).

## AYYA Table at Nationals

The AYYA plans on having a table at the National YoYo Contest in Chico on Saturday, October 1. You can join, renew or Active Members can pick up the new AYYA YoYo (See page 16) at the AYYA table.

## Recent AYYA Records

### Midwest Regionals 6-16-05

Ryan Freitas Junior Eli hops .....65  
Dave Schulte Open Regenerated Trapeze ..224

### Smithsonian Event 7-5-05

Dale Bell Open/Masters fixed axle sleeper.2:13.90  
John Narum Open/Junior fixed axle sleeper2:22.45  
Hiroyuki Suzuki Open fixed axle sleeper 2:29.60

### Worlds 7-28-05

Luke Roberts Open Loop & punch .....253  
Open Ride the Horse .....250  
Open Inside loops .....457  
Micheal Ferdico Junior Iron Whips.....39  
Dave Schulte Open Eli Hops.....120  
John Narum Junior Off-String Whips .....57  
Open/Junior fixed axle sleeper..2:39.42  
Jimmy Peng Open Off-String Whips .....64  
Bill de Boisblanc Masters Whirlwind .....132  
Masters Two Hand Punch .....85  
Masters Off-String Whip .....3  
Masters Eli Hop .....17  
Open and Masters Shoot the Moon 1057

## Help Wanted

The AYYA would like to recruit interested people to work on the AYYA Newsletter. We need people to write articles & submit YoYo related photos for the AYYA Newsletter & web site.

If you'd be interested in joining the AYYA Newsletter, e-mail Joe Mitchell at [joe@mitchells.com](mailto:joe@mitchells.com)

## Corrections/Omissions

The April issue of the AYYA Newsletter did not credit the photographer for the photos from the 2004 World Yo-Yo Contest. All of the wonderful photos from the 2004 World Yo-Yo Contest were taken by Josh Root and were used with the permission of Josh and the World Yo-Yo Contest. Our apologies for the omission. To visit Josh's page, go to [www.disskings.com](http://www.disskings.com)



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the written consent of the AYYA. To join the AYYA, fill out the form in this booklet!

### The Current Board of Directors of the AYYA (year and month current term expires):

Dave Schulte, President, Brooklyn Park, MN (2006)  
[dave@dazzlingdave.com](mailto:dave@dazzlingdave.com)  
Stu Branoff, Santa Cruz, CA (2006)  
[stubranoff@yahoo.com](mailto:stubranoff@yahoo.com)  
Joe Mitchell, Wilmington, DE (2005)  
[joe@mitchells.com](mailto:joe@mitchells.com)  
Jim Pankey, Chatsworth, GA (2006)  
[wildjimbo@wildjimbo.com](mailto:wildjimbo@wildjimbo.com)  
Jason Parrish, Memphis, TN (2005)  
[jparrish@newsguy.com](mailto:jparrish@newsguy.com)  
Dick Stohr, Springfield, VA (2006)  
[yoyoguy@erols.com](mailto:yoyoguy@erols.com)

### AYYA Officers

David Brunner, Treasurer, Riverview, FL  
[bandityo@usa.net](mailto:bandityo@usa.net)  
Lucky Meisenheimer, Chairman  
History&Collecting, Records Committees  
Orlando, FL  
[luckyj@msn.com](mailto:luckyj@msn.com)  
Richard Williams, Webmaster, Provo, UT  
[hobbymstr@utahyoyo.com](mailto:hobbymstr@utahyoyo.com)

### ADVERTISING IN THE AYYA NEWSLETTER

Persons or companies interested in advertising in the AYYA newsletter should contact Joe Mitchell at [joe@mitchells.com](mailto:joe@mitchells.com)

Mail all advertising copy (with payment) to:  
Joe Mitchell  
26 South Cliffe Drive  
Wilmington, DE 19809

Please make all payments payable to "The AYYA."

### Rates are as follows:

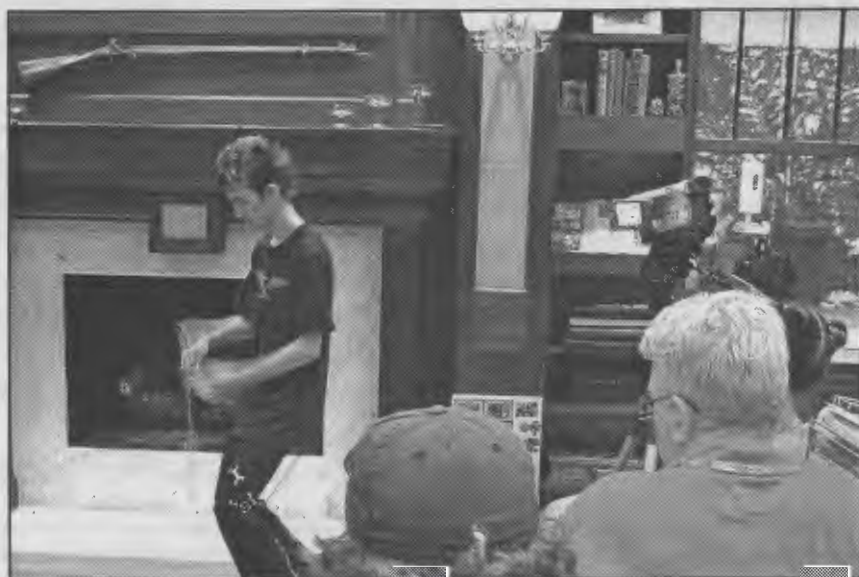
FULL PAGE (7.5 x 10) ..... \$175  
INSIDE COVER (front or back)..... \$210  
PREPRINTED INSERT SHEETS..... \$300  
HALF PAGE (7.5 x 4.875 or 3.6265 x 10) \$100  
QUARTER PAGE (3.5 x 4.75) ..... \$60  
EIGHTH PAGE (3.5 x 2.312)..... \$35

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**WWW.AYYA.ORG**

### Hall-Of-Fame (Cont)

Continued from previous page

Award, founded the A.Y.Y.A. and has been instrumental in the development of the World Yo-Yo Championships. Rule said about Oliver, "I met Bill Oliver (that how he was known at the time) in 1960. I was working a promotion in Orlando and Bill was in Tampa. He was then and still is a "Fantastic Player." I think Dale (as he is now known) was long overdue for recognition. In my opinion he has done more for the Sport/Hobby of Yo than anyone around today. I'm proud to know Dale."



An AYYA Record is attempted at Lucky's BBQ at The World YoYo Contest



# Nationals 2005

By Joe Mitchell

The 2005 National YoYo Contest takes place on Saturday, October 1st in Chico, California. 2005 marks the 13th year of the National YoYo contest. It is the premier contest in the National YoYo League.

Several changes are on tap for this year's event - first, the location. "The City Plaza will be under construction during the contest, so we will move 3 blocks north to another park in Downtown -with shade!" noted National YoYo Contest Director Bob Malowney. City Plaza has been the home to the National YoYo Contest for many years, but several years ago most of the trees in the park were removed, leaving the players and attendees exposed to the sun. Shade should be a welcome addition to the 2005 contest. It should be noted that the National YoYo contest is the only major contest that takes place outdoors - thanks to the wonderful Northern California

weather. Also differing from last year is the preliminary one-minute freestyle event. This year, there will be no required elements in the one-minute freestyle.

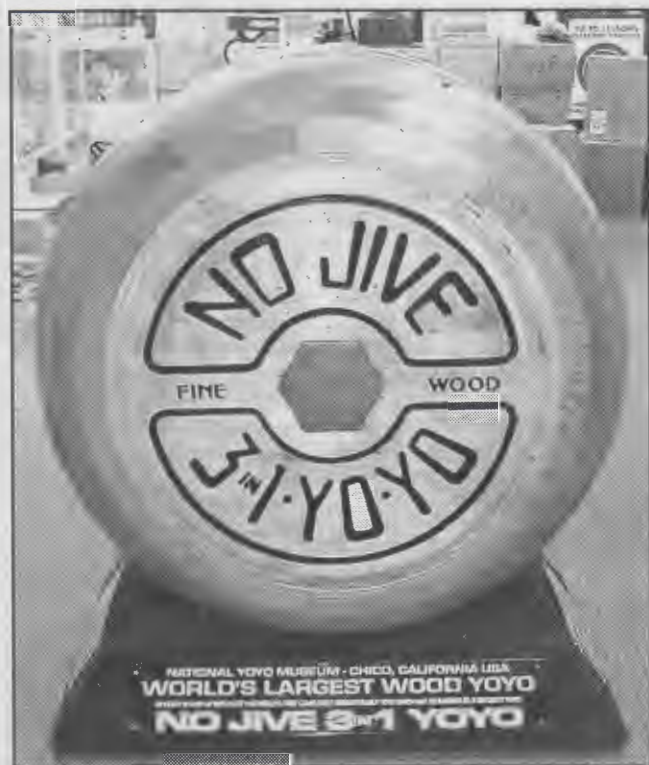
2005 was the first year that the National YoYo League added Official State Contests into the fold. 24 State Contests took place in 2005. "The addition of Official State Contests has remarkably invigorated the yo-yo community. There are now more ways to be involved as a player, promoter, and judge," stated Malowney.

The 'National Cup' will be introduced at the 2005 National YoYo Contest. "It will be presented to the player who posted the highest combined finishes -1st. through 5th. - in the Open, -Y, or X- divisions held at all the regional contests this year. It is a method to encourage players traveling to other regions, and to pick up an additional playing style,"

explained Malowney.

Malowney wouldn't bite when asked if anyone would be named as National Masters at this year's event, stating only that "there are many individuals - if they sustain their participation - who will one day become Masters."

The National YoYo Museum, housed in the Malowney's Bird-In-Hand store at 320 Broadway in downtown Chico will be showing off new items acquired over the past year. The town of Chico is gearing up for the contest with a "town-wide awareness of the influx of yo-yo players."



The National YoYo Museum houses the World's Largest Working Wooden YoYo. Photo courtesy National YoYo Museum

## SCHEDULE

Friday, September 30th, 2005

6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Preliminary Freestyles  
For 3A, 4A, and 5A Championship Divisions  
on the Main Stage

Saturday, October 1, 2005

9 a.m. to 10 a.m. Registration  
\* Open registration for Sport Division and Spintop Divisions.  
\* Players in Championship Divisions must pick up registration packets and submit music for preliminary freestyles.  
\* This is the opportunity for all players to clarify any questions that they have with the judges.

10 a.m. to 12 noon Sport Division and Preliminary Freestyles  
\* Trick judging for all Sport Division contestants on the Sport Division stages.  
\* Trick judging for Spintop Division contestants on the Spintop Stages.  
\* Preliminary Freestyles for 1A and 2A Championship Divisions on the Main stage.

1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Freestyle Finals  
\* Freestyle Finals for Championship divisions on the Main Stage.  
\* We will start with the 5A finals and finish with 1A Finals.

4 p.m. to 5 p.m. Spintop Freestyles  
\* Spintop Freestyle Finals on the Main Stage.

5 p.m. Award Presentations  
Presentation of all awards on the Main Stage to:  
\* Sport Division age group winners  
\* Sport Division overall winners  
\* Top 5 places in 1A, 2A, 3A, 4A, and 5A Championship Divisions  
\* Spintop Sport Division winners  
\* Top places in Spintop Championship Division

7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Awards Dinner  
\* Dinner will start at 7:00 p.m. and will include honorary recognitions.  
\* Held at Manzanita Hall, 1705 Manzanita Ave, Chico, CA 95973.  
\* Tickets can be reserved by calling 530-893-0545 ext. 24.  
\* Reservations strongly recommended.  
\* Dinner is \$20. Your support of the dinner allows the contest registration to be free. \$14 of the ticket price is tax-deductible. We cannot refund the tickets so please coordinate with friends, family, and team members before purchasing tickets.  
\* Driving maps will be available.

# Nationals - 2005 - Your Guide to Chico!

## How to Get There?

**By Air** - you can fly directly into Chico Municipal Airport (CIC) through United, mainly through a connection in San Francisco. The benefit is getting right into Chico - the drawback is the cost. Most players fly into Sacramento or San Francisco and rent a car to drive into Chico. Discounters like Southwest fly into Sacramento, making even cross country flights relatively affordable. As of this writing (early August), Philly to Sacramento airfares were under \$200!

**By Car** - Chico is a couple hours NorthWest of Sacramento.

## Where to Eat?

**Denny's!**  
675 Manzanita Court  
Chico, CA 95926  
530-345-1146

Due to it's proximity to the Holiday Inn, the Denny's is the unofficial dining place for yoyoers during Nationals. You will find hordes of yoyoers hanging around for breakfast and late night at Denny's.

**Broadway Heights**  
300 Broadway (Phoenix Bldg)  
Phone: 899-8075  
Hours: Mon-Wed 11 a.m. - 8:30 p.m. Thurs-Sat 11 a.m. - 9 p.m. SUN 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Broadway Heights is located next to Bird-In-Hand.

**Jamba Juice**  
Jamba Juice  
201 Broadway Street  
Chico, CA 95928  
(530) 345-5355  
(530) 345-4612 (fax)

Fruit smoothie drinks served with exuberance. Shane Karan swore by these before winning two National Championships in 2004. Coincidence?

**Cold Stone Creamery**  
146 Broadway  
2nd & Broadway  
Chico, CA 95928  
Phone: (530) 891-3331

Ice cream chain store in downtown Chico. If you've never been to Cold Stone, do yourself a favor and get there. The ice cream is mixed on a 'cold stone' - adding your mix-ins to the ice cream. Sinfully yummy.

## Other Things to Do while in Chico?

**Sierra Nevada Brewery**  
1075 East 20th Street  
Chico, CA 95928  
(530) 345-2739  
<http://www.sierranevada.com/index2.asp>

Award winning brewery is located right in Chico! Tours available for the brewery Mon-Fri and Sunday at 2:30 and Saturday continuously from 12-3. Taproom & Restaurant is open Tuesday - Thursday: 11:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m., Friday & Saturday: 11:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m., Sunday: 11:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m., Note: Taproom & Restaurant are closed on Mondays!

**Bidwell Mansion State Historic Park**  
525 The Esplanade  
Chico, CA  
530-895-6144  
[http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=460](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=460)

Bidwell Mansion State Historic Park is a beautiful, three story, 26 room Victorian House Museum that stands as a memorial to John and Annie Bidwell. John Bidwell was known throughout California and across the nation as an important pioneer, farmer, soldier, statesman, politician and philanthropist. Annie Ellicott Kennedy Bidwell, the daughter of a socially prominent, highly ranking Washington official, was deeply religious, and committed to a number of moral and social causes. Annie was very active in the suffrage and prohibition movements.

The Visitor Center is open Wed. - Fri. 12 p.m. to 5 p.m., Sat. & Sun. 10 am to 5 p.m. Closed Mon & Tues.

**Tour Schedule:** Tours leave on the hour, and take approximately 50 minutes. Tours are scheduled Wednesday through Friday from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

On weekends the tours run hourly from 10 am to 4 p.m.. Those interested in a group tour should call ahead for reservations.

## Where to Stay?

**Holiday Inn**  
Official Hotel of the 2005 National Yo-Yo Contest  
685 Manzanita Ct.  
Chico, California 95926  
(530) 345-2491 • (800) 310-2491

The Holiday Inn is ground zero for the National YoYo Contest. Most of the players will be staying (and staying up all night) at the Holiday Inn. The Holiday Inn is the Official Hotel of the National YoYo Contest and provides sponsorship of the contest, which is a great reason in and of itself to stay there. It books early, so call soon.

**Heritage Inn Best Western**  
Located across the street from Holiday Inn  
25 Heritage Lane  
Chico, California 95926  
(530) 894-8600 • (800) 446-4291

**Oxford Suites**  
2035 Business Lane  
Chico, California 95928  
(530) 899-9090 • (800) 870-7848

**Heritage Inn Express**  
725 Broadway  
Chico, California 95928  
(530) 343-4527  
Just 2 blocks from the contest.

**Days Inn**  
740 Broadway  
Chico, CA 95928  
(530) 343-3286  
Just 2 blocks from the contest.

**Vagabond Inn**  
630 Main Street  
Chico, California 95928  
(530) 895-1323  
Just a few blocks from the contest.

**Motel 6**  
665 Manzanita Court  
Chico, California 95926  
(530) 345-5500

Located right next to the Holiday Inn, the Motel 6 is popular as a less-expensive alternative to the Holiday Inn.

**Matador Hotel**  
1934 Esplanade  
Chico, California 95926  
(530) 342-7543

**Safari Garden Motel**  
2352 Esplanade  
Chico, California 95926  
(530) 343-3201

**Super 8**  
655 Manzanita Court  
Chico, California 95926  
(530) 345-2533

**Town House Motel**  
2231 Esplanade  
Chico, California 95926  
(530) 343-1621

**Deluxe Inn**  
2057 Esplanade  
Chico, California 95926  
(530) 342-8386

## Bed & Breakfasts

**Esplanade Bed & Breakfast**  
620 Esplanade  
Chico, California 95926  
(530) 345-8084

**Music Express Inn**  
1091 El Monte Avenue  
Chico, California 95928  
(530) 345-8376  
<http://www.now2000.com/musicexpress>

**L'Abri Bed & Breakfast**  
4350 Highway 99  
Chico, California 95973  
(530) 893-0824  
<http://now2000.com/labri/>

**The Grateful Bed**  
1462 Arcadian Avenue  
Chico, California 95926  
(530) 342-2464  
<http://northvalley.net/gratefulbed/>

This is a wonderful B&B that serves incredible breakfasts!

**Johnson's Country Inn**  
3935 Morehead Avenue  
Chico, California 95928  
(530) 345-7829

# Two New National Masters Named at Worlds

## International Stars Hironori Mii and Rafael Matsunaga Named 10th & 11th National

By Joe Mitchell

Japanese YoYoer Hironori 'Hiro' Mii and Brazil's Rafael 'Red' Matsunaga were named National Masters at the 2005 World YoYo Contest in Orlando by Bob Malowney, Director of the National YoYo Museum in Chico, California. "Both Hironori and Rafael have been supportive of the new energy of the sport. They teach, they support, they judge, they inspire. They are amongst the best technical players in the sport at this time. They give their time to players around them and they serve as examples to all players worldwide," commented Malowney on his selection of the 2nd and 3rd National Masters from outside of the United States.

National Grandmaster Bill deBoisblanc commented on the two new National Masters, "I can't think of two better choices to join the fold of National Yo-Yo Masters than Rafael and Hironori. Not only are both of them World Champions in their own right, each has promoted the sport of yo-yoing in their country and around the world. Red has been instrumental in helping yo-yoing emerge in Brazil and now the country is producing a growing number of world class players. He also has been a major force in making the Freehand division the fastest growing style of play. Hiro was there at the beginning of the X-divisions and has been instrumental in elevating Offstring play to its current amazing level. Hiro seems to be everywhere, demonstrating, competing in AP, promoting and judging major contests in Japan and the US. My congratulations to Red and Hiro, welcome aboard."



Hironori Mii

Hiro seems to be everywhere, demonstrating, competing in AP, promoting and judging major contests in Japan and the US. My congratulations to Red and Hiro, welcome aboard."

National Master Steve Brown added, "I think the same thing now that I thought when I originally mentioned Rafael as someone who I felt should have the title of National Master: he's an incredible human being, and a true asset to not only the industry, but to everyone that he calls 'friend'. I wish he lived closer, I wish we could spend more time in tight orbit around each other. I have a feeling that knowing him better would make me a better person. He has done so much for the people whose lives he has touched. And it's clear, the quality of this man, when you ask anyone who knows him. Because before they say a single word, they smile."

"Hironori? Hell, he's long overdue. I figured he'd get it before I ever did. I guess I had a better agent. Heh. I love that kid. Hiro-chan, the Gentle Giant. Oki Hironori!"

## I'm Still The Same, But I Have This Fuzzy Feeling Thoughts On Becoming A National Yo-Yo Master.

By Rafael Matsunaga  
Special to the  
AYYA Newswire

During a conversation with Hironori Mii at Worlds this year, he said: "I guess this means we can't quit anymore." That phrase made me think about what that title we had just been awarded with meant.

It took me back to March 2004, when Steve Brown came to Brazil for Brazil Nationals. After the contest, when the players were leaving and telling me how much they had enjoyed the contest, Steve told me "You know what this means? This means you can't quit anymore."

At that moment, the thought struck me like a cannonball. Steve Brown was in Brazil. During the whole time he had been in the country, it had felt like showing the city around for a friend, which was true, but it had never occurred to me that that was not only my buddy Steve. It was National Yo-yo Master Steve Brown.

That exact moment meant more to me than the 5A World Title I had won the year before. I had only seen or talked to Steve personally twice before, at Worlds the two previous years. And yet, he was in Brazil.

Before that moment, Brazil Nationals was a contest I had always seen as something rather small, like a US Regional Contest in many ways. It had never been a contest like US Nationals or Japan Nationals, nor something players from other countries would be interested in, let alone travel abroad to attend.

And yet, Steve came to Brazil in 2004, four more US players came in 2005 and half a dozen more want to come in 2006. And that amazes me to no end, because there are a handful of contests in other countries. I've always really wanted to attend and the thought that Brazil Nationals is one of those few contests for other players is mind-blowing.

It's at those times that the yo-yo community feels like something pretty big, but not too different from the small group of friends which were the Brazilian yo-yo scene 5 years ago. It doesn't feel like my yo-yo friends from abroad are any different from Forest, Titi or Whip, who I can visit in 30 minutes any day.

And it felt really odd to hear Bob Malowney call me on stage to receive a National Yo-yo Master award that day. "What? Wait, that's my name, that's not right. That's an award for people like Steve, like Takashi people who have been on yo-yoing full-time for years. Sure you mean Takeshi Kamisato?"

I've been running contests, judging and teaching for a few years now, but that was never part of a bigger plan - like making Brazil a yo-yo powerhouse or organizing the best yo-yo contest in the world. I think I took this path to get a broader yo-yo experience, much like deciding to make yo-yo videos or starting to mod yo-yos. And it's been working much better than I could expect.

I regret not being able to remember the exact words, but after Dale Myrberg received his Lifetime Achievement award, he told me something about good things happening to you when you're into doing good things. Those would later prove to be words of great wisdom as they came to my mind when I received my own award.

Dale Myrberg, Bill deBoisblanc, Dale Oliver, Dennis McBride, Steve Brown, Dave Schulte, Jennifer Baybrook, Rick Wyatt, Takahiko Hasegawa and Hironori Mii. I still find it hard to put my name on that list when I think of their titles. But then I realize that, inside this rather large group of friends, we're just eleven more yo-yo players: Dale, Bill, Dale, Dennis, Steve, Dave, Jen, Rick, Taka, Hiro and Red.

A very special thank you goes to Greg Cohen, who first told me why and how I should run a National Yo-yo Contest in Brazil.

Rafael "Red" Matsunaga bails from Sao Paulo, Brazil and is pretty much the reason anyone in Brazil is interested in Yo-yoing.



Steve Brown (left) and Rafael Matsunaga compare the size of their patches.

Photo courtesy Rafael Matsunaga

# Worlds 2005 in Photos



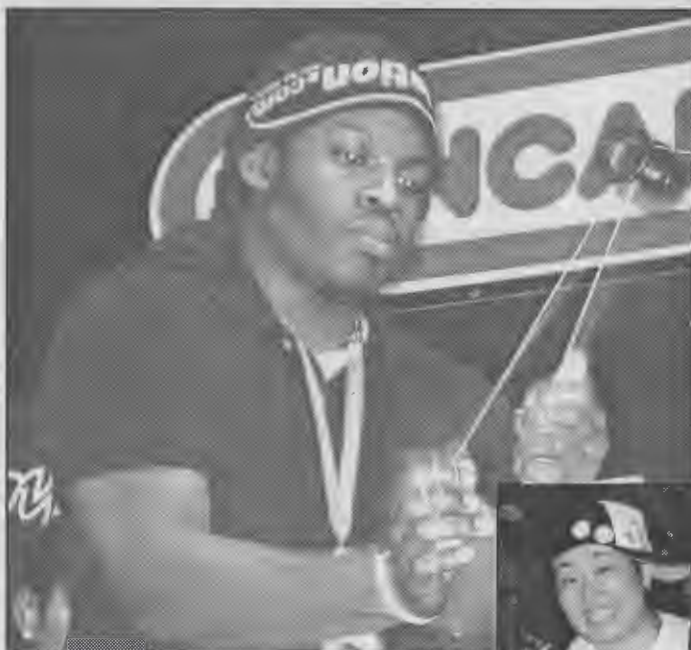
*"Joe" knows dough! Competitive dough throwing was demonstrated at Worlds. Photo courtesy Pat Cuartero ([www.patcuartero.com](http://www.patcuartero.com))*



*Harvey Lowe Lifetime Achievement Award winner and AYYA Hall-Of-Famer Dale Myrberg. Photo by Hironori Mii*



*2002 World Champion Yunka Spencer. Photo courtesy Pat Cuartero ([www.patcuartero.com](http://www.patcuartero.com))*



*Mark Montgomery competes. Photo courtesy Pat Cuartero ([www.patcuartero.com](http://www.patcuartero.com))*



*Former 1A World Champ Johnnie DelValle works on a lathe at Worlds. Photo courtesy Pat Cuartero ([www.patcuartero.com](http://www.patcuartero.com))*



*John Narum took the 4A (Off-String) World Champion Title. Photo courtesy Hironori Mii*



*World 5A Champion Maya Nakamura (BuKo). Photo by Andrew Brant*



## UNKLE STEVE'S HAPPY FUN CORNER

By Steve Brown

For once, I really don't know what to write about.

Seriously.

I really haven't been playing yo-yos or tops or juggling or any of that stuff at all lately. I've really just been playing bass and playing guitar and writing for this music mag out in Los Angeles. That pretty well sums up my hobbies at the moment. I'm taking myself a break from all this yo-yo stuff. Let myself re-focus, try to get a better idea of where I really want to be in the yo-yo world.

See, it's a strange place I've found myself in. No one seems to really give much of a crap whether I have new tricks or not. In fact, people have pretty well stopped asking altogether. I do always for either newbie players, or people who have never seen anything other than Walk The Dog, so there is no pressure there to be "outting edge." I don't compete, so there is no driving reason that I need to keep up with anyone. Although, my girlfriend does keep trying to shove me in to entering the 5A division at Worlds next year. I'm still kinda thinking about that one. Big leap, y'know? I'm sure that if I started practicing and creating again, I could catch up fairly quickly. And when I get on a roll, I'm never at a loss for new ideas. But still, the notion of falling flat on my face in the division that I'm responsible for just doesn't sound appealing. Maybe that's self-doubt talking. Or maybe it's the wisdom that everyone told me would come with age. I do feel pretty old these days. I dunno. I'll sit on that one for a minute longer. I think.

My web site will be up and running by the time this goes to print. [www.stevbrownmag.com](http://www.stevbrownmag.com). That's been pretty fun. I'm working on building fun stuff like wallpapers and icons and junk like that. Tracking down old demo flyers and old pictures. It's been interesting, looking back for a change. I've spent most of my time

looking forward for a good while now. Looking back is... interesting.

My son is here. He's beautiful. Which, of course, is what every parent says. But I don't know if he's beautiful to the world at large, and more importantly, I really don't care. See, he's beautiful to me, and that's as far as my opinion needs to go

on the matter. It's incredible, really, to look at him and see my eyes and my chin. He's still pretty young. I don't know if he has my smile yet. I hope he has his mother's smile. Actually, I like hers better. It's big, and open, and expansive, and lights up her entire face. I wish that for him.

I've been playing bass a lot lately. Acquiring instruments that sound different has become a new obsession. I've got a Fender Geddy Lee Jazz bass that has a great, booming low end. I've got a Fender P-Bass that is a solid, mid-range instrument although I don't get to play it since it's on loan to a friend. I've got a Mach 1 bass... a Steinberger license. It's one of those headless deals, that use the double-ball and strings. The electronics are kinda shot, so I'm waiting for it to get repaired. I've got a couple of acoustic guitars, an old Japanese electric with four pickups. Total overkill. Needs some electronic work. I'm studying up online to get that fixed. I've got a Fender Jaguar HFI Special Edition guitar coming to me soon. Can't wait for that. And I've got bids in on eBay for an acoustic/electric bass. I always liked the way those sounded. Booming, and deep and kinda woody.

Even my taste in music has gone awry lately. I've been listening to a huge amount of acoustic stuff. Lots of Rumbleseat, Leadbelly, Arlo Guthrie, Bob Dylan, Bright Eyes, stuff like that. Folk music. But on the flipside, my tastes in metal have re-surfaced, and I've been listening also to a lot of Burmese Circle Takes The Square, old Iron Maiden, and Torche.

I'm getting married in November. Second marriages are the triumph of hope over experience. My soon-to-be new father-in-law told me that. Dale Grier's been married a few times. I should ask him.

I'm still with Duncan. I've lost a bit of my fire for the job, though. Since I'm personally at kind of a full-point in my love affair with yo-yos, it's hard spending time designing and marketing them. This couple of weeks I've taken off to help usher my son, Mayerick, in to the world has given me a much needed vacation. I'm cleaning out the collection, and selling off the stuff that isn't really important to me. Need to make some space here. My attic is packed to the hilt.

I feel, based on my position in things, that I should have something better to say right now. I should have some kind of direction to give, some kind of advice to offer, some kind of wisdom to impart.

But really, right now, I'm just being totally selfish. Yo-yos have taken a backseat in my life right now, and at the forefront is my family and my music and my writing. Everything beyond those three things is just background noise, ambience, the static that plays on the TV long after you've fallen asleep, the humming of something else. I didn't go to Worlds, and I won't be attending Nationals. While Miguel Correa is on stage, tearing it up with counterweights, I'll be at home, plucking away at my bass and watching my son to see if he has learned to love the sound of it yet, like I have. I'll be hanging out with my step-son, Zane, and taking him to Kook Sool Won classes and guitar lessons. I'll be checking eBay for deals on gear, and I'll be just enjoying a slight break from being in the center of the yo-yo world.

I hope no one begrudges me for this time I'm taking. I still throw every so often. Got an Oxy 4 recently, and love it to death. My Duf-B Yo Bone Chip gets a lot of play, too. FH Zeroes, of course, are never more than an arm's length away.

But right now, I'm enjoying just being Steve. This guy who lives in Cleveland Heights, who plays bass ok, who has a beautiful son, an incredibly cool step-son, and a wonderful girlfriend who lights up my days.

It's a good life, when you stop and think about it. It really, truly is.

*Steve Brown's column appears regularly in the ATTA Newsletter. He and his fiancée Marilee have just had their first child - Mayerick Eliot Brown. Visit his web site at [www.stevbrownmag.com](http://www.stevbrownmag.com)*



**Pat  
Cuartero**

The World Yo-Yo Contest, no matter how you get there, or when you get there, is one of the most memorable events a yo-yo player (or anyone, for that matter) can experience. Each and every one of the attendees has a different story to tell, as there's so much going on, so many people with whom to interact, and so little time to do it all. The following is a rather long-winded, convoluted, and quite detailed reminiscence of my personal experience before, during, and after the 2005 World Yo-Yo Contest.

My flight was scheduled to depart somewhere around 10:00 am EST on Wednesday, July 27, 2005. Unfortunately, an unnamed Fortune 50 investment firm tightened her grip on me so tightly that I had to move my flight to 2:00 p.m. EST, costing me an additional \$270.00 over my original ticket. Ouch. In any case, I worked on my vacation day...my day off...the day I had planned to leave for the 2005 World Yo-Yo Contest. Mind you, I've been working since 3:00 am staring at numbers, putting together reports, performing "analyses", and other meaningless, menial tasks.

Before I knew it, it was 1:00 p.m., and I was still working. It was the first time in my life I've ever sweat from using Excel and Powerpoint...yes, strenuous activities, huh? I stopped the typing. I stopped the clicking. I decided it was time to submit the (rather incomplete) report that I had drafted, and finally head out to the World Yo-Yo Contest.

I brushed my teeth for literally 15 seconds, threw clothes in a suitcase, and grabbed my YoYos. It was time to go.

I hailed one of the many cabs that regularly flood the streets of Manhattan, and calmly told the driver, "I need to get to JFK International Airport...in thirty minutes."

The Driver, while munching on a bite of his cheese pizza slice from East Village Pizza & Kebobs (the best pizzeria in NYC, in my humble opinion) said, "It depends on the traffic."

"Just hurry," I replied.

Luckily, I had a cabbie that wasn't afraid to make his foot a little heavier while driving (it must have been the pizza). He got me to JFK International in 35 minutes. It was now 1:40 p.m.. I had 20 minutes left before the plane left. I sighed in relief and thought, "I made it."

I attempted to check in using the e-ticket kiosk, and it told me that there was a problem with my reservation and to see someone at the counter. It turned out that my flight was closed. The \$270 dollars (plus the original \$230) I had paid to get on this 2:00 p.m. flight was no longer available to me. I would have to pay another \$25 dollars to get on a flight at 5:30 p.m.. After a futile attempt at arguing with Delta and Expedia.com, I submitted to the 5:30 flight. I was, after all, still going to Worlds.

I was physically tired, mentally exhausted, thirsty, and hungry (especially after watching the cabbie eat his pizza). I spent an extra \$300.00 dollars to get to this point. I felt dirty and my hair felt greasy as I have not yet showered (I usually do, trust me).

5:30 rolls around, and I finally got on the plane. Due to thunderstorms however, we taxied for an extra 1.5 hours before we actually took off. Lucky me.

During takeoff, we experienced tremendous turbulence. With the luck that I've had the whole day, I literally thought I was going to die. No, I didn't panic. I just didn't care anymore...

Three hours later, I landed in Orlando in one piece. It

# Worlds: Better Than Christmas?

was 10:30 p.m. after I got my bags. I found transportation (I recommend Beeline Shuttle Services. It was only \$15 dollars to get to the Rosen Plaza Hotel from the airport), and left for the hotel...still exhausted. Again, with my luck, some guy in the shuttle wanted to start up a conversation, and started telling me about his work on VPN, Avaya VoIP, configurations, and other techno-savvy topics I cared not about. It then led to him asking me for my business card so that I could submit his resume to this big investment firm that owns me right now. If I were mean, then I would have actually submitted his resume (I still haven't submitted it to this day).

Anyway, as I drew closer to the Rosen Plaza Hotel, I started to wake up...I was getting excited. I started thinking of what I would do first...thinking of who would be there...thinking of who I would meet that I've never met before.

I walked through the large rotating door, and upon entrance to the hotel, I immediately felt relief from the long, arduous day.

I made it. I was at Worlds.

I managed to make it to my hotel room first, as I wanted to shower and get "comfortable." It turns out that my roommate was already in the room! Andy S. (aka MiddleAgedNerd) from Indianapolis is a great guy, by the way). We ended up just hanging out and talking for a bit...already beginning the "socializing" and networking...I haven't even dropped my bags yet!

After showering, getting dressed, and all of that "non-Yo-Yo" stuff, I went downstairs to go to the famous gathering area...something I like to call "The Great Hall". It truly is great - many of the World's best yoyo players end up in the same room on these days. Numerous unforgettable experiences and memories happen within those doors. Those alone make the room worthy of the name "The Great Hall".

Even the journey to this Great Hall takes some effort.

On the way, I literally met about five new people including Buzzon's webmaster, Manny, and Buzzon's in-house designer / modder, J.B. I noticed J.B. was holding some sort of small violin case or something of the sort. He opened it to show me and immediately revealed a beautiful array of his limited creation for Buzzon - the Rogue. I was floored (this isn't the last time it'll happen)!

I hadn't eaten dinner yet, and apparently, neither has Paul H. or Jesse G. So I went with them (and Mark M. who had eaten already) to Hooters...the other Worlds YoYo contest "landmark". NOT surprisingly, we saw other yoyoers at Hooters, and it just turned out to be another hang out spot.

The night progressed like this into the early morning...just talking, yo-yoing, and eating Edy's Cookies & Cream ice cream from the convenience store next to the Great Hall (Jay, the late-night shift counter-staff, will literally pile on about 5 huge scoops of ice cream for the price of 1 scoop, at this time. I suggest you take advantage of it).

By the time it was time to retire, it was already around 5:00 am. I tried to sneak back in my room quietly without waking up Andy, but for some reason he was awake! So...we ended up exchanging tricks and talking more (and I gave him a YoYoNation.com T-shirt to wear the next day!). I think we both finally went to bed at 7:00 am. Yes. I really was at Worlds.

The next day was essentially the same, but so different at the same time. I met people, talked to friends, reconnected with old friends, ate, and had more ice cream. I also passed out more YoYoNation.com T-shirts to a handful of friends. It sparked curiosity, to say the least!

Off to the BBQ! Dr. Lucky Meisenheimer (and wife) is kind enough every single year to open his home to many strangers who may or may not play with YoYos. He also

holds many mini contests, including the 15 Seconds of Fame contest (I actually got up there this time!). Moreover, Lucky's house is where many World Records are broken during the official AYYA World Record Attempts. I'm usually there for the food - BBQ Chicken, pulled pork, fruit salad, baked beans, rolls, and other goodies lined the buffet table. I, of course, had my share.

Back at the hotel, I believe this day is when the Wheel of Penalty was held. I have no other comments about this except...extremely amusing (go Red!).

One last interesting moment was at 2 am when a "YoYo community issues" round table discussion opened up. It was interesting, as a small circle of people grew to about 20 people discussing certain topics in our community today. The round table was also a great way to meet new people, as we did some round-robin introductions. The discussion stopped, however, when A.J. K. and Tim S. brought their crazy personalities and antics to light. (I hope your foot is all healed up, Tim!)

After more ice cream, I slept. By the way, Worlds also seems to be some sort of Fat Camp, for me at least...I don't care what I eat or when I eat it...I just eat when I get the need to eat something!

The next day was compulsories and YoYoFactory's F.A.S.T. YoYo contest. Here, Pat M. was truly the dominant player winning both the team contest and the individual contest...I think he ended up taking home over \$1100.00!!! Congrats to Pat! Oh, AND, he was wearing the YoYoNation.com shirt while he was doing all of that winning. It almost brings tears to my eyes (thanks Pat!).

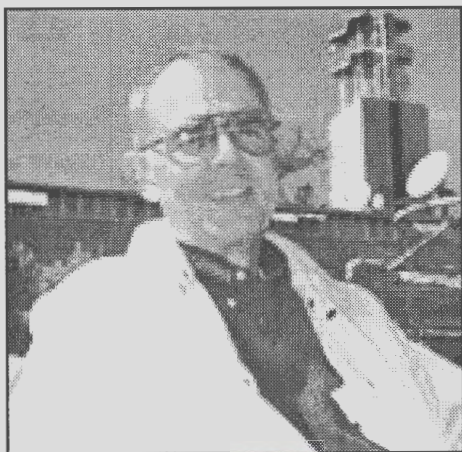
This time spent only meant freestyles were to come sooner than later. AP, 4A, and 5A (and tops, too, I think...congrats to Dave B.!!!) were all scheduled for that Friday. Saturday was for 3A, 2A, and 1A.

Between Friday's and Saturday's freestyles...I would write about them...but it wouldn't be worth it. My poor English, grammar, and general writing skills would do the freestyles NO justice (I'm not even doing Worlds any justice!). The freestyles are just shows you have to see for yourself. I will, however, tell you my condition after the freestyles: A scratchy voice (from screaming so much), wet shirt (from the sweat...yes, I literally sweat just sitting in my seat watching certain people \*cough\* Shinji \*cough\*), and pounding heart. Seriously...it's amazing. Speaking of amazing, congrats to Ryan L. for doing completely revolutionary tricks in his 4A / 9A (yes, 9A) freestyle (he was wearing the YoYoNation.com shirt too!).

I didn't want to leave and go back to...the "work" that tried to keep me from going to Worlds in the first place...but I guess this is life.

You might have noted that I've written more about my trip TO Worlds, than Worlds itself. It's only fitting, as while you're at Worlds, time goes way too fast. Regardless of what I went through getting to Worlds, or what I had to pay to get there, nothing else mattered as long as I MADE it to Worlds. Everything was (is) amazing at Worlds, and you just forget about everything else that's going on outside of Worlds' realm. You can go there to meet people, learn tricks, show tricks, be amazed, be entertained, eat, shop, and many other things that words just can't describe. My suggestion for next year, around July - August, is make sure you'll be able to say "I made it to Worlds." For any yo-yo enthusiasts, or anyone willing to have a wholehearted GOOD TIME, I highly recommend you go to the World YoYo Contest. For me, and I'm sure I don't speak for myself alone...Worlds is better than Christmas.

*Pat Cuartero lives and works in New York City. He has recently launched his web site [www.yoyonation.com](http://www.yoyonation.com) and also has a personal web site at [www.patcuartero.com](http://www.patcuartero.com).*



By Joe Mitchell

Back in May, we had George Malko as a guest on *YoYos Coast to Coast* on YoYoRadio.net. The following is a transcription of that interview. Lucky Meisenheimer called in at one point, and his comments are included in the transcript. George Malko is the author of *The One and Only Yo-Yo Book*, published in 1978 and the most sought after book in YoYoing. It is the first book to deal extensively with yo-yo history and the personalities involved in yo-yo history. It also describes the life of the traveling YoYo man. Mr. Malko has written several other books and also wrote the screenplay for the movie, *Dogs of War* and is son of legendary Ukraine conductor Nicolai Malko. He is currently a professor in the Dramatic Writing Program at the Tisch School of the Arts in New York.

**Joe** - First off, Mr. Malko, thank you for writing such a great book about the yo-yo history. It really is one of the few books to deal with the subject of history at all and not just tricks.

**George** - Well, I did it for very selfish reasons

**Joe** - And what were they?

**George** - I wanted to find out what the heck happened to the Duncan yo-yo.

**Joe** - The book starts out with a letter that you got back, I guess, from Duncan yo-yos, or actually Mrs. Mae Tollefson

**George** - Mae Tollefson in Luck Wisconsin

**Joe** - and you wrote Duncan a letter?

**George** - No, I did something even more traditional - I had been in Chicago, where I grew up. I was on a book tour with another book that I'd done. I went back to the neighborhood where I grew up - to a candy store - where I used to get school supplies and all those candies you used to get as kids - the plastic lips and the little bottles with the incredibly sweet syrup. It was still there! Richman Toys & School Supplies, and I went in, and there was Mrs. Richman, who, when I went in as a kid used to terrify me, and she was very old. I didn't try to say "did you remember me?" because of the number of school children who passed through that store must have been countless. But, behind her, on the wall, I saw a classic Duncan with the blaze across the front of it, in the blister pack, for a quarter still. And I bought it. Of course I bought it. And I looked at it and I thought this hasn't changed in God knows how many years. And I looked on the back and it said, "send a quarter to Luck, Wisconsin and we'll send you the trick book."

So I was at that point talking to Playboy magazine - to the articles editor. And I said, "listen, this is incredible, because I don't know what's happened to this toy. I want to do an article called "Will there ever be another Duncan YoYo Champ." And they said, "do it."

I wrote her a letter and got back the answer, which is the frontispiece on the book. So then I said, "hey, this is even better, the article is now called 'There Will Never Be Another Duncan YoYo Champ.'" That's how I got into it. But I wanted the two things, I wanted to find out what was going on and I wanted that trick book. So, of course, when I went up to Luck, Wisconsin to visit her, as I described in the book, the trick books were there and everything else.

**Joe** - So you wrote for the trick book, and you got back that letter from Mae Tollefson?

**George** - I got back that lovely letter from her.

**Joe** - Well, I guess that's good, or bad, timing, depending, how you look at it!

**George** - Well, it was an epiphanous moment, because it opened this floodgate of possibilities.

**Joe** - That was 1966, after they had actually gone out of business?

**George** - Oh, they had been out of business for some time. They had declared bankruptcy and their assets and goodwill had been purchased by the company. And, by then all of that had been acquired by the plastics company in Baraboo and they had resumed making YoYos. And I went to all those places.

**Joe** - I guess you had talked to the Flambeau people, the Saueys?

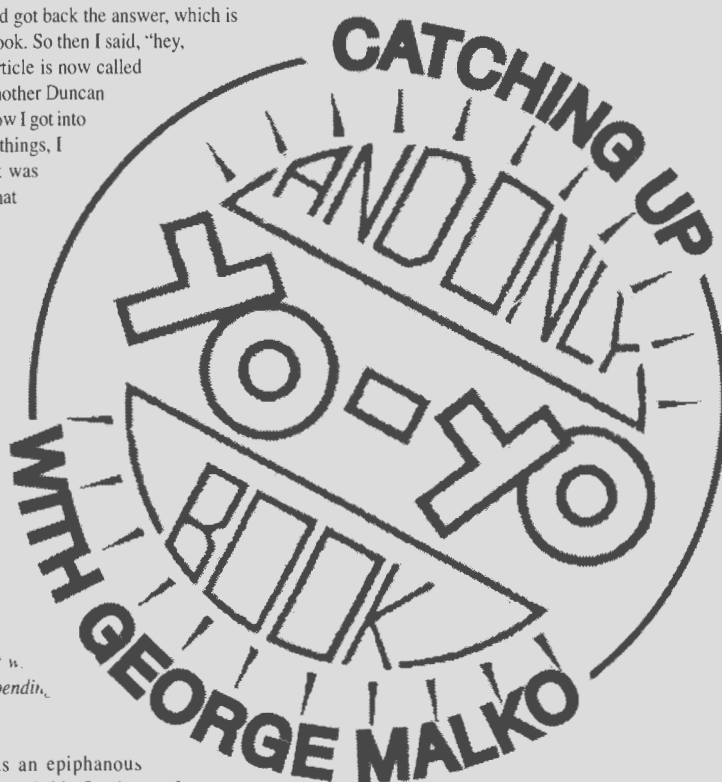
**George** - Oh, no, Baraboo was the home of Flambeau, and I subsequently saw them at a Toy Show here in New York. The annual Toy Show in Manhattan. And I went up to Rhode Island and saw Larry Sayco, who had a factory up there, and I went out to Arizona and saw Don Jr. And he was bringing out his YoYos

**Joe** - The Proyo

**George** - Yea, and the Hummingbirds were being made, the beautiful wood YoYo by Brad Countryman. Everybody was incredibly generous, because clearly this is not just a sentimental toy that's part of Americana, it is Americana. It represents a substantial piece of this country's, you know, kind of emergence, which Don Duncan Sr. realized, they heyday of the 20's and made, for some kids, the depression bearable. A stroke of genius.

**Joe** - How much research did you do for the book?

**George** - Oh, at least a year's worth. Because what happened was that I did a preliminary article. Playboy never published it. It was published by a wonderful journal, here in New York, published by the Lithographers Union, called Lithopenia and Bob Sherrill, who was editor of it, was also an editor of The Nation, and he loved it, he loved the piece and they published it, and then my agent took it to Bob Wyatt at Avon, one of the great editors, not just because of this piece of Americana, he really was a man of vision, and the various things that he brought



into print. And they said "do it." And as I began working on it, they even got the great Ken Kneitel to design it.

**Joe** - It's well designed, it's a really attractive book to look at.

**George** - Oh, it's a beautiful piece. So, that's about a year's worth of research. And just the stuff kept coming, more and more stuff. Not only from Don Jr., but from his mother in Oak Park, Illinois, and from Don Sr. whom I met here in New York when he was on his way to Europe.

**Joe** - I wanted to ask you about that, because not many people who are into YoYoing now have had a chance to meet Don Sr., so can you give us any impressions about what Don Sr. was like?

**George** - Oh, he was the total entrepreneur. Total entrepreneur. He had been involved with Rocks candies, that was a famous American candy factory, in fact at one point, I'm not sure whether or not he said this, he was involved with ice cream on a stick. There's just so much Americana.

**Joe** - I believe it was Good Humour.

**George** - But, there was also the Duncan parking meter.

**Joe** - Which, I think, still exists.

**George** - Well, the parking meter as an entity still exists, it was a Chicago thing, which was ultimately, after he was gone, riddled in scandal - allegedly riddled with scandal. But, yes, there it was, it changed the face of urban America, whether you grew up in a town, the city, the suburbs. Wow, this is a great way for us to make money.

And....when I met him, he talked about the fact that it was in Santa Barbara that he met Pedro Flores, who showed him this toy. And he said, I think I quote him in the book, went up to his hotel room and he had this thing that looked like a potato on a string, went up and down, and whether it was Sr.

*Continued on next page*

# Malko (cont)

*Continued from previous page*

or someone else who came up with the thing that changed the face of YoYoing, the fact is that the slipknot string did it. The slipknot was Sr. And then, he bought the factory from Pedro Flores.

**Joe** - So the Flores were pegged?

**George** - They went up and down and Flores was from the Philippines. That whole tie-in with that toy - the toy weapon - of the Philippines and the Tagalog being YoYo - Come Back, came from there.

**Joe** - I'd read also that the YoYo as a weapon was a marketing ploy by Don Sr. That it really wasn't, necessarily, true.

**George** - Well, I checked that out. And someone said, in terms of Philippine lore, look if you're sitting in a tree and you wanna throw down something heavy, and you miss, you'd like to get it back - I said, "I'll buy that."

The thing that happened to us on Fifth Avenue as we were talking, and I think I do put that in the book, is that Don Sr., we walked across Fifth Avenue to the lower end of Central Park and he had a couple of YoYos in his pocket and he said, "so here was the thing" and he was talking about doing, and he starts doing some tricks. And it was a magnet. Kids, you should have seen the kids. The street was virtually empty, euphemistically in New York City, but suddenly, there's like 30 kids crowded around him, and he just looked at me.

**Joe** - You know, that's funny, that still happens, because there's still demonstrators, and they start YoYoing in public, at airports and stuff like that - you just draw a crowd.

**George** - And the description in the book of my trip to Luck, Wisconsin in that one bar, was a bartender was a guy named Jerry Videen, who had worked as a demonstrator, and I was with Mae Tollefson's son. You know, when you get a bunch of farmers at the end of the day who had worked very, very hard, and they have a bunch of drinks, they can disagree about anything, and voices were raised, and it was smoky and noisy, and I'm talking to Jerry at the end of the bar and he's talking about some of the stuff that he used to do on his initial visit to a location and how he would escalate it. And we talked about that, and he reaches under the bar and gets a YoYo and starts doing some of the stuff, and then he's talking about the by the third or fourth week, we've got them. And suddenly, we realize it was dead silent, dead silent. He has grown men, looking, crowding around and the looks in their eyes were everything that they've grown up with, everything that meant something to them.

**Joe** - It's funny that it crosses the generations and still a popular toy. It still is intriguing kids and there's new kids coming in all the time who want to get a YoYo. It's still popular in the age of videogames and that's kind of astonishing.

**George** - Because it offers a possibility for an individual to acquire a facility with something on a very personal level. I think the whole emotional notion of the ownership of a YoYo is a very, very powerful thing.

**Joe** - And for some of this, the emotional notion of wanting to own many, many YoYos is a very powerful thing.

**George** - Well, it is. Look, you can argue about which one of them sticks the best, and which one of them will do the best - that's fine, but ultimately, the proof is in an exhibition or a demonstration of personal pleasure. Pride of ownership.

When the first polyvinyl axle appeared, there was that argument, "well, it'll stick longer. I'm sure that there are the purists who say once the axle stopped being wooden, it was ruined.

**Joe** - There were, and there was a big controversy back in the early 90's when people started coming out with the transaxle YoYos, but that's kinda past. Most of us have accepted the ball-bearing YoYo, that's what it is now.

**George** - It's a variety of things, I like what Tom Kuhn did with it, and I like what Brad Countryman did with it, with respect for the notion of beautiful wood.

You don't wanna do an impossible trick just because the YoYo is doing the work for you. I think that's the heart of it. If the YoYos doing the work for you, it's no fun. That's one of the things I love about Tommy Smothers works with a YoYo.

**Joe** - He won't use a ball-bearing YoYo, or he's tried, he says, but he just doesn't like it.

**George** - For the various levels of his artistry—the YoYo thing, yes he's invented this persona. But it's the very personal extension of something he really loves. And it's great to see him in a huge hall in Vegas do it.

**Joe** - We love to see it too, kids come in and they have no idea who Tommy Smothers is, but his mom and dad will say, "oh, Tommy Smothers - he's a really good YoYoer." He's a good ambassador.

Who were some of the people you spoke to when you did the research for the book - did you talk to any of the old Filipino demonstrators.

**George** - One of them on the phone, and I can't remember his name. Barney Akers I talked to. I wanted to meet one of the guys who used to do the

carving on the YoYo when he would come to the neighborhood, but I never got to.

The guy I went on the road with, Fred Otto, you know, it was a different time, but at the same time, it was the same tact.

There was a young woman I met, who had gotten a job and had grown up as a juggler and then also used to do demonstrations with a toy called a Bolo - I don't know if you remember that, it was both a tether and string, and you'd swish the two sticks back and forth and the string would connect it to the two ends of the thing, and this thing would be in the center, and she said it felt part of juggling. But then, when she got to the YoYo, she thought, 'oh this isn't juggling, this is something beyond that.' So, it was a fresh crew of demonstrators. But the classic guys, I saw all the films they had done, the demon-



stration films, and they're terrific, and I remember a couple of the guys in the Midwest I had talked to in person...

**Joe** - Gus Somera?

**George** - Yup

**Joe** - We had a question - Can you tell us anything that didn't make it into the book. Stuff that you weren't comfortable putting into the book

**George** - Everything made it into the book. Whatever I got went into the book. All I know is that after the book came out, more stuff kept coming in. And it was like, "oh, I hope there's gonna be a second edition."

**Joe** - That leads me to "Will there be a second edition?"

**George** - I don't know how at this point, because of the technical challenges. They have to do with the publishing situation. Avon destroyed the original plates. When I first heard that some years ago now, I thought "well, that's it. It's over." But now we live in the age of computer graphic enhancements. Every page of the book could be scanned. Could be sized. And the book itself could be reproduced, with no difficulty. Financial demands, but no difficulty in terms of technical. A publisher would have to be found. I might undertake that, I don't know. Some people have talked about that. Some very dedicated good people. Stuart Crump had wanted to do it. It can happen. How much more should be added is the other question. This is that balancing act question about, "OK, you can put in a lot of anecdotal stuff, but does it amplify the YoYo experience?" I don't know the answer to that.

**Joe** - Your book deals specifically with the Duncan YoYo company for the most part. The original Duncan YoYo company, the one run by the Duncan Family, went out of business. Can you give us your opinion on what may have caused them to go out of business.

**George** - I'll tell you what Don Sr. said - the move to Luck, Wisconsin. Leaving the Chicago area, where they had their shipping facilities. Because someone convinced them to get close to the wood. They ended up with all these lathes. In a factory that was bought by the King Koil mattress company. I do think there's enormous legitimacy to his assertion that television ruined it.

**Joe** - I remember that in the book. It created such an artificial huge demand at the time.

**George** - When you've sold your product immediately to every single potential buyer, what are you gonna do in year two and year three?

*Continued on next page*

## 2005 State Champions

California - Augie Fash, Woodland, CA  
 Colorado - Perry Taga, Denver, CO  
 Delaware - AJ Kirk, New Castle DE  
 Florida - Daniel Campbell, Tallahassee, FL  
 Georgia - Kentaro Kimura - Cuthbert, GA  
 Idaho - Boyd Seth, Hermiston, OR  
 Indiana - Paul Brill, West Lafayette, IN  
 Iowa - Dave Poyzer, Ankeny IA  
 Maryland - Alex Brant, Perryville MD  
 Massachusetts - Eric Koloski, Easthampton, MA  
 Michigan - Derrick Walker, Grand Haven, MI  
 Minnesota - Alex Berenguel - Rogers, MN  
 Pennsylvania - Matt Oberly, Stevens, PA  
 Texas - Jesse Garcia, Dallas, TX  
 Virginia - Tom Connolly, Springfield, VA  
 Washington - Nathan Dewitt, Mt. Vernon, WA  
 Wisconsin - Alex Wilden

## Malko (cont)

*Continued from previous page*

**Joe** - Yeah, you've saturated the market.

**George** - Whereas, the marketing genius before that was two things - patience and cyclical. They would go in, on a leap-frog basis, to new markets every year, so that by the time they had done all the markets, three years later, four years later, they were back in the first place they were and they had a new generation of kids. Patience.

**Joe** - So the television was a good thing and bad thing?

**George** - The numbers are in the book, I think, on how many units they moved in the first or second year.

**Joe** - Yea, I think they are, and it's a staggering number.

**George** - And you can't, with the backlog of manufacture, decide to do something else for two or three years.

**Joe** - That's the most recent boom - in the nineties, some of the manufacturers got caught in the same situation - they had millions of dollars in inventory and all of the sudden, the demand is gone.

**George** - You can't do that.

**Joe** - It's a hard balancing act, I guess, when things are becoming so popular you have to ramp up production to get them out there and all of the sudden, it drops off the table.

**George** - Patience. One of his marketing lessons was patience

And it was the same thing in that story with him and the hydraulic brake. I think he was the first person to buy a hydraulic brake and I think it's in the book about the guy who was gonna sell it to him coming down a hill towards a crossing when a train was coming. Slamming on the brakes and the car stops within inches short of the train. Duncan said, 'Don't ever do that again, but I'll buy it.'

**Joe** - well, it's a good marketing program, I guess, faith in your product.

**George** - Yea..

## Regional Season is complete



**North East Regionals**  
 June 12, 2005  
 Northhampton, MA

A Seed Winner - Peter Stevens



**Mid-Atlantic Regionals**  
 April 23, 2005  
 Wilmington, DE

A Seed Winner - Justin Weber, Newark, DE



**Southeast Regionals**  
 April 2, 2005  
 Tallahassee, FL

A Seed Winner - Kentaro Kimura - Cuthbert, GA

**Mid-East Regionals**  
 August 6, 2005  
 Indianapolis, IN

A Seed Winner - Jake Maloney, Canton, MI



**Midwest Regionals**  
 June 18, 2005  
 Minneapolis, MN

A Seed Winner - John Narum, Minnetonka, MN

**South Central Regionals**  
 August 20, 2005  
 Bedford, TX

A Seed Winner - Jesse Garcia, Dallas TX

**Bay Area Contest (Northwest Regionals)**  
 May 7, 2005  
 San Mateo, CA

A Seed Winner - Augie Fash, Woodland, CA



**Bill Liebowitz Classic**  
 (Southwest Regionals)  
 June 25, 2005  
 Los Angeles, CA

A Seed Winner - Adam Dennehy

### Hawaii-Pacific Regional

There was no Hawaii-Pacific Regional contest in 2005. If you live in Hawaii or Alaska and would be interested in staging a Regional competition, please contact the National YoYo Museum at 530-893-0545 and ask for Thad.

**Joe** - The part in your book about Fred Otto is interesting, because I have heard current YoYo demonstrators refer to that section and say they really can identify with that. The traveling from town-to-town, living out of their car, oftentimes ending up in a bar, and hanging out on a lifestyle like that. Apparently, it still resonates with certain professional demonstrators.

**George** - I think if you talk to anyone who has to go on the road, however far or near, to show a product. I think if you talk about the men and women who go to doctors offices with pharmaceuticals. If you talk to people who are at the Toy Shows or Gift shows, who have to get out there with a product and not just simply go to a store and persuade them to buy a bunch of them, but give them a demonstration of it's viable life, it is the same. It is classic salesmanship. There was that wonderful black and white documentary film of years ago called Salesman, and it's a man on the road. I'm not surprised that people identify with it now because the life doesn't change. The market is out there simply because the basis of talking to people is face-to-face business. It's a lonely life.

**Joe** - Now, in the back of the book, there's an appendix which lists a lot of the Filipino demonstrators. What was the source of that list? Was it Don Duncan?

**George** - That was Duncan. I think there's that black & white of them all on a staircase.

**Joe** - Were the photographs from Duncan as well?

**George** - From Mrs. Duncan. From her family archives. And from Luck, Wisconsin. Cause this stuff was all up there about to be thrown out. I got lucky. It's very special to have met the people and have been involved in that.

**Joe** - It's neat, cause a lot of those people were still around at the time. And a lot of them are no longer around.

*Continued on page 16*



# Mid-Atlantic Regional

April 23, 2005

Wilmington, Delaware

All Photos by Andrew Brant



Steve Brown uses his teeth



Single A Division entrants



Maryland State Champ Alex Brant and Dazzling Dave Schulte



Sport Division Entrants



Sport Division Entrants



Y Division Entrants



**Mark  
McBride**

# The Importance of Females

I'd like to take a second, deeper look at something that I think puts a drag on the YoYo scene...it's a sausage fest. And if you aren't familiar with that term

need it, but as I stated above the scene hosts the sport more than the sport feeds the scene. (If you think I should defend that comment, reread what I wrote above—people throw yo-yos, yo-yos don't throw people).

The great thing about yo-yoing is the people. Sure YoYos are fun too honestly I can do it by myself. The community is what is great and what has furthered the sport. The fact that the scene is filled with people that you want to talk to and trade ideas and stories with is why we have clubs, contests and message boards. And clubs, contests, and a webboard are the potting soil for the innovation that drives this forward. People have to credit the transaxle with the spike in yo-yo trick evolution that started in the late nineties and continues today, but the truth is that transaxles had been around for decades. The SLZ, Ralston and Powerspin were around for years before the big ramp in trick evolution that we are basking in. What happened? The community exploded from more than just 12 guys showing up at a park in Northern California to the hundreds of thousands of kids that started playing when THP paraded around. Jen Baybrook and Kate Miller started the promotion/performance company.

Am I crediting them with it? No, just bring my tumbling little article back on itself. The point is that we need to fertilize the scene on just sport.

The current great examples are the girls that got dragged on as girlfriends, sisters, ex-girlfriends and employees but have stuck around and are now part of the scene and the whole place is better for it. Bonnie, Sids, Devon, Jamie, Manda, Rachelle... They're freakin' great!

Now let's be honest here. As much as I say that we love females around for the balance and their contribution, you're probably saying to yourself, "That's a load of crap. A place filled with predominantly high school/college boys and grown men who play with toys for a living is not interested in females for balance." Sure it's nice to have a little eye-candy/tail at whatever event I happen to spend my weekend at, whether it's a party at my buddy's house or a yo-yo contest. And hey, yo-yos and chicks: two great tastes that taste great together, right? Of course.

But yet do I have any hope or even thought of hitting on Bonnie, Devon, Manda, Jamie, or Rachelle? Hell no. They make it a party because they aren't someone who is just another one—and so many of us males get along so well in the yo-yo scene because we're all the same guy who just happened to be born at different times, in different places. Chicks make it a party and not a convention.

So what do I propose we do about it? I'm not sure; my point going into this article was to point out that it's the scene that needs protection not the sport. But since I firmly believe that pointing out a problem without offering a solution is just complaining I will say that the first way we can do it is by bringing people around for the party. Don't be afraid to invite friends that aren't yo-yo people. It's a party and there are a lot of great and interesting people. And if they don't want to spend the whole day watching a bunch of tricks that they can't sell apart, they can hit the stores in downtown Chico, go to Disney world or just sit back and laugh at the grown men playing with toys.

Another way that we can all help this is by realizing that yo-yo events are about the scene. Don't feel bound to the parking lot or the hotel lobby. You're there to learn tricks and get inspired but you're also there to hang out with the friend you only see once or twice a year. For the last four years I've gone out for Karaoke to the same bad local bar down the street from the Rosen Plaza at Worlds with Steve Brown, Jack Ringen, Jeffery, Simco, and whoever else comes along. It's a bit little tradition. And that's great! I love going to Chico to talk to Rob Maloney. I'm excited to see the Texas Crew every time I go to a contest and I can't remember the last time I picked up a trick from them. The idea here is that

it means that this group of people is nearly completely male.

I say nearly because there have been some very notable female figures. As much as people love to give shout-outs to Linda Sengpiel, I think the truth is Jen Baybrook and Kate Miller have had a bigger impact on yo-yoing than we will ever know. Back in 1998 when modern yo-yoing came into its own Jen Baybrook won the world contest. She was the World champion and she was a girl. THP Marketing got so much mileage out of that. Very few people in the YoYo community, I think, appreciate how much press matters. Without going into a big long lesson on marketing, outreach and publicity I will say that IT **FREAKIN' MATTERS!** Being an interesting article and being able to sing and make people want to read more got YoYos out there and pulled countless people into the scene that would not have otherwise discovered it. That matters. And Jen did it.

Kate Miller was the backbone of Arizona and so much of what came out of there. The only other company that did anything near what THP was doing back in the first hood was Phylmax. When I went over to the Philippines with Steve Brown on a Duncan tour we were interviewing the local guy and Roy Teo and Adrian Lim from Singapore and everything in that corner of the world seemed to go back to "When Hans came over". Phylmax was out and about and spreading yo-yos far and wide and Kate was a bigger piece of that than any of us inside of that you clunk of desert will ever really see.

And of course there are other women who have supported the scene from Amber and Julie in Arizona to Jen Niles when she was at Golden Apple in the states and others who volunteer and help out but if I keep talking about them I will go even further off topic. The point I'm trying to make is that there are females around but yet they are an extreme minority.

People notice the tilted gender balance and worry about it all the time. But it seems to me that people don't appreciate the real danger of this imbalance and are going about correcting it in the wrong way. The real danger isn't the scene, not the sport. If we protect the scene the sport will continue. No matter what people are doing on stage and in hotel lobbies, whether yo-yoing keeps developing as an art form and sport or if it freezes where it is and no one ever invents a new trick, if people keep coming out to contests, we'll still be playing. But if no one comes out to contests and no one bothers to write on message boards, and no one drives to the local YoYo meeting, it doesn't matter how great the activity is, it will die because no one will be there to do it. We need to protect the scene and lack of females is the threat to the scene.

The lack of females is a threat because without females the scene will be a meeting. It will be a bunch of the same vein of people sitting around meeting the same stories and trading the same or maybe just similar tricks. That's all you do when you're twelve and it's all fresh and new to you when you are a teenager. A weekend at a yo-yo contest to talk about anything but your busy job. But a gathering at that level is a bad convention in a community where yo-yoing doesn't have a local and business to hold it together. Yo-yoing is made up of the events and the people that throw those little pieces of plastic and if no one showed up...well, those little pieces of plastic don't throw themselves.

Right now, from my humble perspective, they seem to be trying to correct this problem in an affirmative action sort of way. The logic being this: give that extra focus and effort to the seedling that need to take root because the other trees already have a head start. That's great and valuable but I don't think it is addressing the problem. That approach helps balance the sport and after the fact helps the scene. Again...good, we

*Mark McBride is a regular contributor to the AYA Showlines and is former Editor of Friend Magazine. Mark also promotes the All Livin' on the Chain Regional YoYo Tourney. Visit Mark's website at [www.pmcworld.com](http://www.pmcworld.com)*

# King of Zzzzzzz!

## Tim "The Stringman" Redmond dethrones Rick Wyatt in Historic Throw

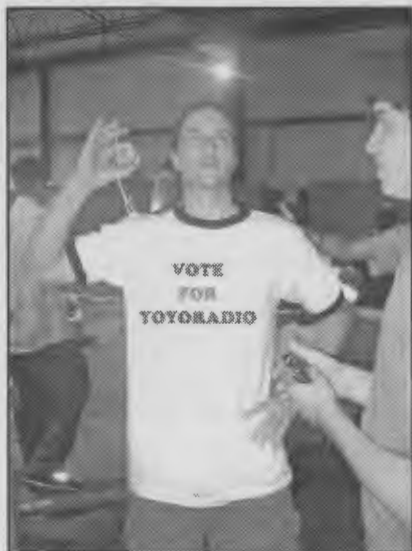
Tim Redmond has knocked Rick Wyatt from the perch he has rested on for, well, quite some time. Redmond, from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, smashed Wyatt's record by over one minute. Redmond set his record at the Pennsylvania State Contest held on May 28, 2005 in West Chester, Pennsylvania. The transaxle sleeper record has been the highest profile record tracked by the AYYA over the past couple of years. Wyatt's reaction was to congratulate Tim and remind us that the size of the YoYoer is not the determining factor in how long a sleeper can be thrown. According to Wyatt, "from the beginning, I more feared someone who could break boards, like a martial arts guy, than someone who could bench press 500 pounds." Redmond also set a record (since broken) for fixed-axle sleeper with a sleeper of 1m 16.53s using a Doble Calypso.

There is also news that The Guinness Book of World Records will start tracking the longest sleeper record. Their version reportedly will time the sleeper until it returns to the throwers hand, unlike the AYYA version, which times the sleeper to extinction.

Special to the AYYA Newsletter  
By Tim Redmond

I originally had no intention of even attempting the record this year. That was my goal for last year, and I wasn't able to get close enough and it was becoming far too expensive. The thing about breaking the long sleeper record is that it gets really, really costly. A good bearing costs \$20 or more and there is no guarantee that an expensive bearing is going to be a good bearing - regardless of its ABEC tolerances and all that. It is slightly luck of the draw - I'm sure Sir Rick would tell you the same thing. On top of that because you are running the bearing completely dry and throwing as hard as you can, there is a definite bearing mortality problem as well - so even a good bearing can die on its first or second throw, leaving you out another \$20. Also in the past there were no nifty-neato YYJ bearing removal tools and I killed one or two great bearings with a pair of poorly handled pliers. So last year I spent \$100 on yo-yos (the MSF 2.2), \$200+ on bearings, and all I had to show for it was three good bearings (two of which died early deaths), and a bunch of sleep times in the low 13 minute range. So I stopped. I had no doubt in my mind of my ability to throw a wicked hard sleeper, but there were too many factors out of my control (money, bearing quality) that I just couldn't seem to get around.

That brings us to 2005, and the Doble Calypso. Fixed axle. No luck-of-the-draw stuff. Less variances, more skill. So I bought one, and I broke the record on



Tim poses for posterity

my first practice throw... I tinkered with my dynamics and brought it to MER where I gave Schulte the smack-down with the first ever official 1 minute plus fixed axle long sleeper. Now here's where the story took an unexpected turn for me. I had the MSF 2.2 with me but I never planned on using it. Some other people attempted the long-sleeper record in the juniors division, and since I was on deck I was talking to them and some newbies in the audience about the open record and getting 13 minutes or so... it ended up that nobody got more than 4 minutes or so on their attempts so I agreed to throw the MSF 2.2 after I had broken the fixed-axle record, just as an exhibition for those who couldn't believe that a yo-yo could spin that long. Well what happened was that I made a horrible, horrible throw - I threw so hard and at such a bad angle that the yo-yo nearly broke my shin. I dodged just in time and the yo-yo went between my legs but with my one leg in the air I had to step forward to keep from falling... let's just say it wasn't pretty. It wasn't worth a re-throw since I wasn't serious at the time, so I straightened it out and gave it a go. That long sleeper clocked in at 13:08 - and I was stunned. Somehow my bearing had mysteriously found its groove! Again, I think Sir Rick will back me up on this, sometimes a bearing kind of gets into a sweet spot where it just spins more cleanly and longer. Everything gets aligned properly on the inside. So I was really, really mad that I hadn't re thrown, but still amazingly excited at what it might mean for me.

I treated that MSF 2.2 with kid gloves for the next month... I actually only threw it once - a 14:45ish throw. Then I stored it away and saved it for PA states. Well PA states was an insane day, my first attempt at running a contest and it was way more than I expected. So at the end of the day when it had all quieted down I followed the same procedure as MAR - I used the fixed-axle record as my warm up, and followed it with the bearing record. This time, however, I really tried. It was not a perfect throw (there is no perfect throw, as any long-sleeper will tell you, only an ideal you constantly reach for) and it's funny in retrospect because in the video you can hear me say "I think I need to restart", and I very nearly did. But I got a very lucky hop which centered the string on the axle and allowed me to level it out without any rubbing. Then all I had to do was put up with 15 minutes of heckling from Tom and the two Cahills, and that was it. My only regret is that I did make a mistake at about 16 minutes in that cost me about 10 - 15 seconds



The final seconds are captured by cameraman Andrew Brant

of sleep time - I think I could have gotten 16:30. It was a personal best for me, and it meant that I held both sleeping records - the culmination of two years of research and practice.

So where do I go from here? Onward and upward! The new YYJ DJ doubled the Calypso time, and took that record away from me in no time at all. I was actually really, really disappointed at MER because I failed to reclaim my record there. In practice I have cleared the 2:50 mark on many occasions. I made a bad throw though and for some reason decided to ride it out. Sometimes you can get away with this for bearing sleepers, but never for fixed axle - and I paid the price: a mere 2:33, the second longest sleeper thrown this year. My goal now is to be the first person to clear the 3-minute mark with a fixed axle. Can you imagine? We could see competition-level Single A freestyles using fixed axles if the companies invest some more R&D. As for the bearing record, I think it will go higher. I am currently experimenting with some new ideas and configurations that I believe will push the times up into rare air of the 18 - 20 minute range. I'm going to have to start showing up early for contests so they can schedule me in...

Tim Redmond is a charter member of the AYYA. His web site, [www.themod Squad.org](http://www.themod Squad.org), now offers custom modded yoyos for sale.

All photos courtesy Tim Redmond



Dual stopwatches display the record-breaking time.



By "Dazzling Dave" Schulte

# A Note From the New President

new ideas that I will be working on during my presidency which may be incorporated into the organization to make us a more relevant and pertinent group.

One of the ideas I want to work on is the judges certification program. An AYYA judges certification program has been discussed for years. As president I am going to make sure we get it done. In the past we ran into a lot of road blocks with technology, costs, and man power. I will make sure we get past these obstacles and create the frame work for training and certifying potential judges. The initial goal is to get Ladder judges certified to help out at the smaller contests and at the state level. In the end, we would hope to get certified judges to the level of "AYYA 1A-5A compulsory judge" and "AYYA freestyle judge".

Another important area I want to work on is re-establishing our membership. I want to give expired members a reason to come back and renew their membership with the AYYA. We have a roster of over 1000 members, but only a couple hundred that are active and have paid their dues. If a past member is no longer playing, and has left the scene completely, I cannot get them. But I want to get the many people I meet and talk with at each contest who were members, but for some reason have not renewed. With the help of the BOD and the rest of the AYYA members, I want to give them a reason to come back. I will show them how the AYYA will benefit them directly, as well as the community at large. I also want to attract new members.

One area I have not worked on, but would like to see the AYYA expand into in the future is media promotion. We could have a media director position. This person would be in charge of promoting the different regional contests in that specific region, as well as announcing the results to the media in a press release format. This is also a way that we could work closely with the NYYL. Since all of the major contests are part of the NYYL, we would be promoting

both the AYYA and the NYYL at the same time. This could also be done for all of the World Records that are broken at the different events. We need to find a way to get our message out to the main stream audiences.

At this time, I want to give a special thanks the current BOD for working so hard in a time of little thanks. Richard Williams and Jim Pankey have put many hours of hard work into the web site. They have managed to compile a ton of very useful information into an extremely flexible format that is easy to navigate. Jason Parrish heads up the Hall of Fame process. He confers with the committee, puts together the ballots, and totals up the results. Jason makes sure the process is done properly. He also acts as the secretary at any meetings and for all on-line votes. The new guy on the BOD is Stu Branoff. He comes to us very energetic and full of ideas. He currently is looking into the 2005 AYYA logo yo-yo, but has lots of other things in mind. Look for big things from Stu in the future. Joe Mitchell was the prior president, and he puts together the newsletter for us...he also writes many of the articles. Without Joe, you would not be reading this newsletter right now. Finally Dick Stohr, the longest running member of the BOD. He makes sure to keep us following all of the proper procedures. He has also recently taken over the membership director role. He will be getting a lot of that under control in the coming months.

In closing, I have many ideas on how to improve the AYYA, and I have spent a lot of time trying to implement some of them. But there is always enough time for a good idea, so this is where I look to you, the membership. Please become an active member. Contact me or any of the other BOD members with your ideas to help make the yo-yo community a better place. Better yet come in person to the AYYA meeting in Chico, so much more can be conveyed in person. Remember, we are here to serve you!

First, I would like to thank the men who came before me and held this position. Dale Oliver who got it all started, John Stangle who helped us grow during the boom years, and Joe Mitchell who brought us through the lean years and kept us on the right track. Without their leadership we would not be where we are today.

Now here are some of the details and history that got me to this position. I am a lifetime charter member of the AYYA and have served on the Board of Directors (BOD) since 2000. Over the years a lot of good ideas have come and gone from the AYYA. Often times these ideas came from the specific expertise of a BOD member.... but those ideas left when that person left the board. I did not like the way it worked, so as a BOD member I worked with the group to set goals that the AYYA would achieve no matter who was serving on the BOD. We determined what areas we should be working on, set objectives for each area, and assigned BOD members to oversee each area. So now when a new BOD member is elected, they will be assigned a specific area to oversee, as well as their area of expertise. As president, I plan on continuing to work on these goals, and also to expand on them to improve the overall organization. Our current goals include the following jobs; Newsletter production, Membership director, Web site coordination, Hall of Fame director, World Records/trick lists/sanctioning chairperson, and AYYA yo-yo selector. We need to do more to benefit the members, so I have a few

# YoYo Radio?

The world's only YoYo radio station is on the air, so to speak. It broadcasts via the Internet at [www.yoyoradio.net](http://www.yoyoradio.net). The station broadcasts two

shows live - one on Monday nights - YoYos Coast to Coast at 9:15 p.m. (East Coast Time). YoYos Coast to Coast features hosts Joe Mitchell and AJ Kirk talking about YoYo related topics and interviewing YoYo personalities ranging from 1932 World Champion Harvey Lowe to current World Champion Hiroyuki Suzuki. Other guests have included George Malko - author of "The One and Only YoYo Book," National Grandmaster Bill deBoisblanc, National Masters Steve Brown, Jennifer Baybrook, Dazzling Dave Schulte,



Rick Wyatt, Takahito Hasegawa, Rafael Matsunaga & many more! Plus, the show is being podcast for those of you who wish to download the weekly broadcast and listen via your portable mp3 device or on your computer.

Go to [www.yoyoradio.net](http://www.yoyoradio.net) to see the upcoming broadcast schedule and to download past shows.

The other live show on YoYoRadio.net is Radio Kwyjibo, broadcast live from San Francisco and features the everluminiscent Doctor Popular and RJ Owens, the Big Magic Fungi. Doc and RJ do a freewheeling show centered around YoYos and have featured guests like Johnny Knoxville. You can also download mp3s of Radio Kwyjibo from their web site at [www.radiokwyjibo.com](http://www.radiokwyjibo.com).

## Malko (cont)

*Continued from previous page*

**George** - I went to school with Frank Conroy, who wrote Stop Time. In the book, Stop Time is an autobiography written by a young writer. Frank died a couple months ago, he was head of the Iowa writers school. In Stop Time, there is a chapter on young Frank participating in a YoYo contest. For many, that chapter is the epitome of a YoYo experience. I talked to Frank after my book came out and we compared YoYo notes and he said "as important as I suggest in the book that contest was to me at the time, it was even more important."

**Lucky Meisenheimer** - I had one burning question after having read your book multiple multiple times over the years. You had a plate in there from who knows where, it looks like a patent office plate.

**George** - Lucky, I got them all from the US Government,

**Lucky** - Including that one with the fish and the monkey?

**George** - Yup

**Lucky** - Really, because we've had a lot of guys look for that and nobody can find it and there's no number on that one.

**George** - Well, I have to honestly tell you that the Duncan family let me use what they had with the understanding that I would return it. Whether or not I have any of the other papers of my own. I know I have the original typescript manuscript. But I remember that when I went to the patent office and went through all the accounts of the twenties of that category of toy, which was tethered. It is a type of tethered toy. Lucky, I'm almost certain that that was one of the things I got from them when I wrote for copies.

**Lucky** - really, because a lot of guys have done patent searches and nobody has been able to find that particular...it's the one that has the fish and the monkey and the guy that looks like he's in an elevator. At least in the plate, there's no patent number - other than the inventor's name, Cody Bell. I thought maybe this was a foreign patent or something. But you're pretty sure it's a US patent?

**George** - I'm pretty sure it's a US patent. No, I didn't get any foreign patents at all.

**Lucky** - Oh, OK. And then on your photos from where you have the cartoon characters from France...

**George** - That was French newspapers, which were part of the Duncan family archives.

**Lucky** - I thought we had talked about that years ago and that's what you had told me, but I unfortunately didn't write that down, but I had forgotten to ask you about that patent plate, and it's been always burning in the back of my mind.

**George** - Lucky, has anyone ever tried to Google Cody Bell?

**Lucky** - That's a good idea, maybe I'll do that after I hang up actually.

**Joe** - There's an attorney's name on there as well. But it's in script.

**Lucky** - It's written in script and it's pretty hard for me to make out.

**George** - I think what's important to connect is this category, tethered toy

**Lucky** - These are obviously kind of a figural, early YoYos. There have been some out there. There's a Mickey Mouse YoYo from Germany, obviously from the very early 30's and some other toys like that. I just was curious on whether that was a US patent or a foreign patent. You could go back quite a ways on some of those.

**George** - No, that was not foreign. The Grecian stuff and the English portrait stuff, I got that from archives.

**Lucky** - That's the one burning question I really had. Again, thank you for writing such a wonderful book, it certainly was an inspiration to me.

**George** - Lucky, listen, your catalog, that's a wonderful, wonderful book.



**Stupendous**

## The AYYA Yo-Yo for 2005

*By Stu Branoff*

We all have yo-yos we keep because they are special in some way. We call them our collectibles. Maybe it is that Yomega Brain that your grandfather bought you, or that Duncan Freehand 1 that is out of production. Or like me, it is that huge Millennium 2000 yo-yo that your mom bought you from the grocery store because she knew you loved yo-yos (thanks mom!). Well here at AYYA we have a limited edition yo-yo each year that is available for sale



to anyone. Of course there is a discount for members of the AYYA or for new members. Only 150 of these yo-yos will be available, so you know they will be an immediate collectors item. Not only will this yo-yo be a collectable, but it will be guaranteed to be a player. Each yo-yo will have the AYYA logo and the year 2005 printed on it. Remember our AYYA yo-yos from the past? We have had the Freehand 2 from Duncan, the Big Ben from YoYoJam, and last year we had the Blaze from Buzz-On.

So what is this fantastic yo-yo going to be this year? The Reactor by Custom! This small sized, aluminum, ball bearing yo-yo will be engraved with the AYYA logo and the year 2005. We will be introducing this yo-yo at the National Yo-Yo Contest in Chico, CA on October 1, 2005. We can tell you that this yo-yo will not only be a collectable, keep sake, but also a valuable addition to your yo-yo arsenal.

See you all in Chico, and look out for the AYYA yo-yo for 2005!!

*Stu Branoff is the newest AYYA Board Member and he lives in San Francisco, California. Welcome to the Board, Stu!*

**Lucky** - Thank you very much. I don't think it would have happened if we didn't have The One and Only YoYo out there to inspire me. I'll let Joe get back to you, I know he probably has many more burning questions for you.

**Joe** - Do you ever hear from people, fans of the "One and Only YoYo Book?"

**George** - The guy that I've been in touch with, but not recently, is the singer/performer Johnny Tillotson. He's the only one. I haven't, in fact, heard from Johnny in almost eight years now. He found a bunch of the books and sent them to me, and I signed them and sent them back. Johnny's a terrific guy.

**Joe** - Have you written anything else on YoYos?

*Continued on page 19*

# The 'Schulte' Method for Mapping Out a Freestyle

By Dave Schulte

Freestyles, as we know them today, have been performed for judges and audiences since the mid 1990's. Yet if you ask all of the competitors how to set one up? Or how are they judged? You would get many different answers. The reason you would get so many different responses is that there is no "set" way to do it. In this article you will learn my way of organizing and laying out a freestyle for a competition. I will cover everything from selecting your music to performing it for the judges.

Assuming you already have a decent skill set, and many tricks in your arsenal, you should be able to implement my method almost immediately. The first thing you need to do is find your music. Do not just pick your favorite song, or pick one by a "cool" band. Select music that matches your style of play. If you are mostly a slow complex type player full of innovation and creativity, or if you are a speed demon hitting the basic elements quickly, your music should match the majority of your style. Ultimately, you would want to try and fit a fair amount of both types in your freestyle so you can get the speed points, and the difficulty points in the same performance. The hard part is finding the balance between the two to win the contest. Every judge is different, some want difficulty and creativity above all else, others are strictly technical trick counters, and still others want to see a performance. Your best bet of placing high, or winning a contest is to combine all of these items into a perfect routine. If you have the ability, you might want to try to put together your own song or compilation of songs. Edit it to the correct length, and get the parts of the songs that you want in your freestyle. Make sure it has some crescendo and decrescendo parts in the music, as well as a tempo switch if possible. Dramatic changes in the music that match dramatic changes in tricks will be fun, as well as getting you choreography points. Once you have the song selected and edited down to 3 minutes, burn it to two separate compact disks to bring with you to the contest. It is a good idea to have a back up CD and carry it in a separate bag in case yours is lost or stolen.

Now it is time to map out the song. Basically you want to listen to it over and over, determining the natural breaks or changes in the music. It is best to have these breaks in about 10-20 second intervals, and they should be easily distinguishable with either a specific instrument change, or vocal element that you will be able to pick out quickly. (See example Freestyle Map) The advantage to breaking down the freestyle into small segments is so you will

be prepared for the unexpected. When the knot, tangle, string miss, mind fade, or panic hits you will be able to get back on track when the next segment begins playing. It will keep you from rushing your tricks and looking panicked, and it also will help you remember to do all of the tricks you wanted to do in your performance. Now that the song is mapped out, it is time to start putting the tricks into the map. But before you start writing, start playing to it. Listen to the song over and over while you are throwing. Change up your environment and use different yo-yos while you play. This will help you to vary the type of tricks and space requirements you can use in the freestyle. Mix up your front style tricks and your side style tricks to provide more of a variety in your routine. Remember you will be on a large stage at the contest, so try to picture that, as well as an audience. (that is why you are freestyling after all.....the audience.) Use all of the space around you, think up, down, and all around to fill that visual space on the stage. You would be amazed to see how much better a freestyle that uses all of the visual space scores compared to one that only plays in one plane. Find specific parts of the song that really match a particular trick you want to use. Also consider the aspects of stage presence, use of the stage, looking at the audience, choreography, and moving to the music) After you have played enough, start filling in trick segments on the map. Many tricks/combo do not have names. That is not important, as long as you know what you mean when you write it out. Do not feel overwhelmed, or required to fill everything out now. Some of the elements can be filled out later as you work. Do not sacrifice tricks, or difficulty points for stage presence, but try to put them all together if pos-

sible. There are many tricks you can do without looking during part of it, that is a great place to add some stage presence.

Once the freestyle is completely mapped out, its time to put in the hard work.....practice it! I recommend you do the freestyle as written on your map many times in the first week. You want to commit it to memory. Start by trying to work out the first minute without looking, once you have that down, add the next segment of the song and so on until you are done. (If it helps to have your map written on index cards, and placed on the stage in there locations, that is fine for the first week of practice) Do not be afraid to make slight changes as you are learning new tricks, or find better ways to add stage presence into the show, but make sure to keep the framework of the freestyle in place.

Finally contest day arrives. Do not be scared or nervous, your freestyle mapping, and practice will keep you on track. Stay focused, and remember why you are up there, to entertain the audience. It is called a freestyle performance for a reason, so don't just do the tricks, perform them on the stage. Be aware of the judges, after all they are part of the audience, so look at them when performing. If you know a specific judge is famous for liking a certain type of trick or element that you have in your freestyle, do that part aimed at them. A judge who enjoys a freestyle will obviously give it more points, so make the judges like the routine. Above all else, enjoy yourself. YoYoing is fun, so show it!

If you follow my method of mapping out your freestyle, you are not guaranteed to win, or even place. But you will increase your odds of doing your best, and putting on the best show possible. Good Luck.

Freestyle Map

Time	Queue	Speed	Tricks	Stage location
:00 - :12	Piano	Slow	*Around the world • *Trapez combo •	Center/Front
:13 - :28	“(vocal element)”	Med	• Braintwister • Split the atom • •	Right
:29 - :32	Trumpet	Fast	• Texas Cowboy • • •	Center
:22 - :49	“(vocal element)”	Fast	• Eli Hop combo • *Spirit bomb •	Left/Back
:50 - 1:03	“(vocal element)”	Fast	• • • •	
1:04 - 1:27	Bass	Slow	*Follow •behind the back stuff •	
1:28 - 1:40	“(vocal element)”	Med	• • • •	
1:41 - 2:01	Chorus	Fast	• • • • *1 1/2 Laceration	Right
2:02 - 2:11	Trumpet	Fast	*arm/leg wrap • summersault gunslinger •	Center
2:12 - 2:34	“(vocal element)”	Fast	• • • •	
2:35 - 2:52	“(vocal element)”	Fast	• • • •	
2:53 - 3:00	Piano	Slow	• *Finish move combo	Center

The above example freestyle map is a work in progress. As you can see the song has been completely mapped out, but all the tricks and the stage locations are not yet determined. There are 4 bullet points for tricks in each segment, but you can put as many or as few tricks into each depending on time.

NOTE: The stage presence elements of a freestyle are not written down. You determine when to look up, when to move on the stage, and how to capture the audiences attention based on the tricks you are doing and the amount of concentration you will need at that time. You will get a feel for this as you are practicing.

# Tommy Reyes

Special to the AYYA Newsletter

By Robert Reyes

Tommy Reyes was born March 7, 1911 in the City of Ilo Ilo on Panay Island in the Visayan Island Group of the Philippine Islands which was then U.S. Territory. In 1931 he came to the US as a Merchant Seaman arriving in San Francisco and then by way of the Panama Canal to New York City.

In NY he established connections with the Duncan Toy Company by way of Porforio Valdez and other Filipinos like Joe Radovan who were then being sought as YoYo Demonstrators. After signing on in 1931 he began competing and was given the title as Duncan's World YoYo Champion in 1932. In the 1930's Tommy began as a demonstrator and was on living allowance under Duncan where he toured the entire USA. He visited every major city in the US. In the summer he toured the Dakotas and in the winter the Gulf States. While Tommy toured the US for Duncan's YoYo craze era Joe Radovan was sent abroad to South America, France and Europe for Duncan's international campaign.

By 1939 he had invented the Light the Stick Match Trick by gluing sand paper on the YoYo and performing the Loop the Loop long enough so it would eventually strike the match which was held in by a stage assistant's hand. He was also in friendly competition in Duncan YoYo sales with other Field Managers like Barney Akers who was on tour for Duncan. Tommy was already considered one of the best Duncan Demonstrators of that era. He was also a talented yo yo carver personalizing your YoYo.

World War II temporarily halted Duncan Campaigns. He served as a US Merchant Marine under the auspices of the US Coast Guard during the War. He was in the Largest Naval Convoy at the time September 1943 for

around the trademark by introducing the product as Tommy Reyes & Joe Radovan Two "Famous" Filipino YoYo Champions use Royal Champion



Tommy was featured on the packages of Royal string as well as boxes for Royal YoYos

Tops. Famous since they had already established their Name in History and Fame as Great Duncan Demonstrators. Joe had the business savvy to make Royal Duncan's #1 competitor in the US. However it was noted that Tommy was a bit better in YoYo skills & a better show man. That is why he is on that first Royal Box and the Egyptian String Packs. Just like the Wheaties Cereal

strategy that Champions help sell the product.

In the late 1940's Tommy who was living in Los Angeles, which he considered the best US weather, introduced his own brand "Eagle Tops" using the same Royal wooden mold. By 1949 Tommy had returned to the Duncan Company as Field Manager and was on Campaign. He had a the Best Filipino Duncan Demonstrator of the late 1940's early 1950's under him Bert Valensluella. Campaign managers would have 8 demonstrators and would divide a major city up into sectors. They would flood the city with yo yos then go in and campaign. American News from the Hearst Corporation was partners with Duncan and would help flood a city with yo yos when they delivered their newspapers and magazines. In Boston Mass 1950 they sold a record 100,000 Yo Yos at .35 Cents each in one month for the Duncan Campaign. Campaigns were contests, exhibitions, workshops, and demonstrations.

Tommy Reyes reported directly to Tom Ives the General Manager of the Duncan Toy Company in Chicago and the brother in law of Donald Duncan Sr.

Married in Baltimore in the early 1950's raised 5 children and decided to finish his other career cooking in the Merchant Marine. He worked to the top of that profession as Chief Stewart doing meal planning and typing the menu. He worked also as a chef in major hotel chains after his retirement.

He is the Godfather of Tommy Radovan and Joe Radovan was Tommy Reyes Jr's Godfather.

I use to travel with my Dad in the early 1960's who would then be servicing accounts in local five & dime stores selling Royal Yo Yos. He would also perform outside in shopping centers and Bowling alleys for kids to see him. In the 1960's he appeared on kids television shows in New York, Baltimore, and Washington. He said Lew Newmeyer

use to win the yo yo contests in Washington, DC. in earlier days. In 1969 he liquidated all his remaining Royal stock and retired from the business.

In 1991 when the Return of the Yo Yo tour was brought out by Donald Duncan Jr., Tommy came out of retirement briefly and performed in public for the last time at Marley Station Mall. At 80 years old he still had command all his tricks with both hands including lighting the match. Donald



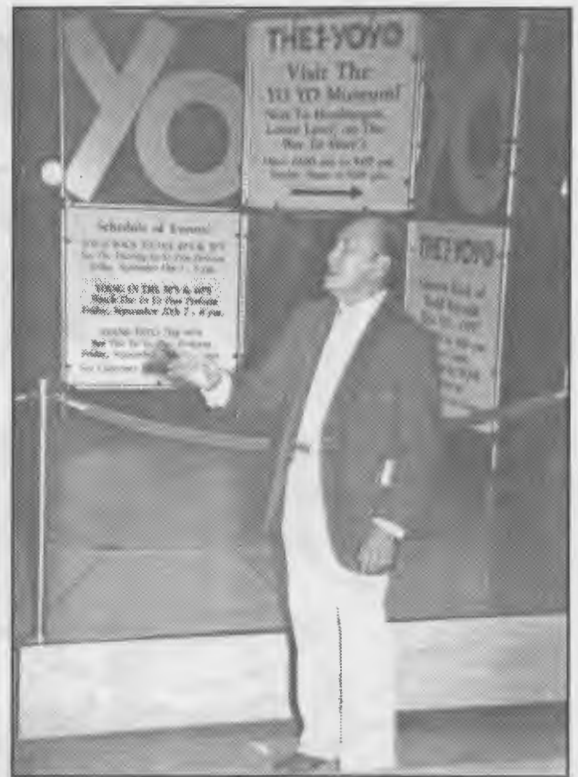
L - R: Demonstrator Bert Valensluella, Tom Ives, Duncan General Mgr, Mr Visione American News /Hearst Corp, Theater Mgr, Tommy Reyes Duncan Field Manager. Photo courtesy Robert Reyes.

Operation Husky - the Invasion of Sicily and Operation Avalanche Invasion of Salerno Italy and he also served in Operation Overlord (D-Day) in Southern France.

In the 1940's Joe Radovan who was friends with my Dad as a Duncan Champion asked him to help promote and introduce a new company "Royal Tops." Since Duncan had YoYo as a trademark Radovan was able to get



Photo from 1950 Duncan campaign - From L to R: Bob Babb, Skeets Beebe, Tommy Reyes, Bert Valensluela, Mr Visione / American News Hearst Corporation, Right Elbow of Tom Ives- Far right and out of picture. Photo courtesy Robert Reyes.



Tommy Reyes in 1991 at the 'Return of the YoYo' exhibit.

Duncan Jr., who not seen my Dad for over 40 years, was amazed. Tommy was interviewed by the Baltimore Sun.

In 1993 after Smothers Brothers Show a back stage meeting was set for Tommy & Dick to meet Tommy Reyes. I asked Tommy and Dick about their childhood memories of the Duncan men coming to their neighborhood. I asked if they were American or Filipino Demonstrators. Tommy said both came out but: "Everybody knew that the Filipino Duncan Demonstrators were the Best in the World."

In 1994 he passed away in Baltimore at the age of 83. The Baltimore Sun did a nice obit with his picture making the famous star with the yo yo string. We are proud to know our Dad helped popularize in America the most popular toy. Tommy Reyes along with Porforio Valdez and Joe Radovan are major parts of the Filipino Roots of the YoYo and its popularity in the 1930's, 40's, 50's & 1960's.

Robert Reyes is the son of legendary YoYo demonstrator Tommy Reyes and currently lives in Maryland. The AYYA thanks him for sharing his memories of his father with us.

## Malko (cont)

*Continued from previous page*

**George** - There was the original article and that led to the book. There was no follow up. As I said earlier, what more you gonna say? I don't want to repeat myself. There's no new revelations. The revelations with from the people who support it and practice it and celebrate it. Some are technical. Look, the thing that will never change is new tricks. That's not an article, that's a Sunday in the park with a lot of great people.

**Joe** - What was your first YoYo?

**George** - It was the nickle one, the red and black one

**Joe** - Do you still YoYo?

**George** - Yea, sometimes if I'm annoyed with the day.

**Joe** - A stress reliever?

**George** - Oh, yea, oh, absolutely, it just focuses you. Tommy Smothers is right, I don't achieve the 'State of Yo,' if you're focused on it and you think about it and it cleans your head up.

**Joe** - Gets you to concentrate on something other than what you were concentrating on.

**George** - I don't want to plug any in particular, I still do use Tom Kuhns

**Joe** - Well, they're nice YoYos and they're beautiful YoYos and they're well-working YoYos.

**George** - And it's just that there is something relaxing about that it's wood. I remember our friend, the late David Newman, who wrote the screenplay for Superman, and Superman II and Superman III with his wife and Robert. When I was going through all my stuff, I found some of the Superman butterflies that they made as well as the other Superman YoYos that Duncan had and I gave him a couple of them. He was more excited than he was about the movie. It was that moment, you know, Wow, look at this. It was terrific. It brings out good stuff.

**Joe** - Who introduced you to the YoYo?

**George** - I went to the corner candy store, not Richman's, another candy store and there was a demonstrator, a young guy.

**Joe** - One of the Filipino Duncan guys?

**George** - Yea, and I was in the 1st or 2nd or 3rd grade in Grammar store in Chicago. All I knew was that the guy was making magic.

**Joe** - That's funny, because the show here comes from a retail store my family owns a retail store here in Wilmington, Delaware and we've been open for 52 years now, and we had a Duncan demonstrator in our store well before I was around, but I think it's pretty neat that we had one here.

**George** - Yea, absolutely, and then, like, he disappeared, like the Lone Ranger. Who was that genius? And this store had all these YoYos and all I could afford was the nickle one, and then I moved up on the dime one and then through much begging I got the 25 cent one. What we used to do with the nickle and dime ones, was we would break the strings and make our own fixed strings. Because we didn't want to spend the money on buying the glassine envelopes of slip strings. We found that if you made a tiny knot in the intertwined strings of the fixed string YoYo, you could make it stick. So, it was all this improvisation.

**Joe** - What else have you written?

**George** - I had another nonfiction book come out, which was my father's writings, which I translated and edited. And a couple of novels. And later this spring, I have another translation, the complete short dramatic works of Anton Chekhov - all the short one act plays as far as burlesques (A Tragic Man Despite Himself: The Complete Short Plays of Anton Chekhov (2 volumes) ). And I'm completing a new novel now, I've had a lot of plays in the past several years done in readings and workshops. And I am bunch of short stories and literary journals over the past years.

To listen to the entire interview, download the mp3 file of the show at [www.yoyoradio.net](http://www.yoyoradio.net). YoYos Coast to Coast is broadcast live each Monday night at 9:15 p.m. (East Coast Time) at [yoyoradio.net](http://yoyoradio.net). The live show is rerun each night at 8 p.m..

# Around the World!

This new series will check out the YoYo scene in different countries 'Around the World,' starting with this issue's spotlight country, Poland.

By Joe Mitchell and Marek Fundala

ish community;

1. Those are people who started YoYoing around 1998-1999 during "Playmaxx craze".

We had [a] Playmaxx distributor and good promotion of YoYoing ([a] few Polish players were riding around the country and YoHans was here twice). Some of them [have been playing ever] since then and some had shorter or longer breaks." Fundala himself counts himself in the latter group, having stopped in 2001 and resuming his interest in 2004.

"2. Guys who got interested when someone decided to put money into promotion of very bad YoYos made by [a] company called Dracco. I think this was around 2001.

3. 'Fresh' guys who somehow discovered YoYoing during last year or so (some of them [were interested] in 1998 for short

time but didn't got into [the] community - [the] Internet wasn't very popular in Poland back then - so they stopped).

The Internet has played an important role in the re-emergence of the YoYo scene in Poland in the past couple of years. "The Internet is [a] main source of information and communication for our community." The Polish

Continued



Polish YoYo Masters (From L to R) Adam Antonki (Yodek), Grzegorz Wojcik (Plamek) & Marcin

Poland is a former Eastern-bloc country that borders Germany in the West and former Soviet Union countries Ukraine, Belarus, Lithuania in the East and The Czech Republic and Slovakia in the South. It's history over the last 100 years has been a violent one, experiencing a brutal Nazi occupation during World War II and a Soviet occupation during and following World War II. Poland has made large strides over the past couple of decades with the fall of the Polish Communist Party in 1990 and the emergence of democracy since then. In 2004,

Poland joined the European Union.

As for YoYoing, according to Marek Fundala, who hails from Warsaw, the Polish JoJo (pronounced YoYo) community is quite small. "At this moment we have about 60-80 players" who have been into YoYoing for some time and expect to stay interested beyond another month or two.

There

are two major annual competitions in Poland - the Polish YoYo Masters event, which has been held the first weekend in April in Łódź since 2001, and the Summer Freestyle Competition, which has been held in August every year since 2003.

According to Fundala, "There are 3 types (or waves) of yoyoers in pol-



Grzegorz Wojcik (Plamek)



Right: Group shot from Polish YoYo Masters Event

# Poland...

players congregate on the Polish YoYo forum at <http://www.yo-yo.pl/>

Currently, two of the best yoyoers in Poland are Adam Antonik, aka 'Yodek,' who finished 1st at the Polish YoYo Masters contest in 2004 and 2nd in 2005, and also 2nd at the Summer Freestyle Competition in 2004, and Grzegorz Wojcik, aka 'Plamek,' who finished 2nd at the PYYM 2004, 1st at PYYM 2005 plus 1st at SFC 2004. According to Fundala, "Their skills are good enough to compete on [an] International level" and they hope to travel to the World YoYo Contest in 2006. The biggest hurdle Polish yoyoers face is getting enough money to afford travel and housing to Worlds.

The recent influx of players between the ages of 15-17 has given a big boost to the skill level of Polish yoyoers in the past two contests. Four of the Five top placing players at the Summer Freestyle Competition this past August started playing within the last year.

The YoYo of choice in Poland? According to Fundala, "if you would ask everyone about their main YoYos, most of them would name a YoYoJam YoYo - YoYoJam is surely [the] number one YoYo company in Poland." Metal YoYos are significantly more expensive to the Polish YoYoer - not simply due to a higher price, but due to the lower wages earned by Polish people compared to much of Europe. According to Barron's, the average Polish monthly wage in May of 2005 was \$723, compared to German average monthly wages of more than \$4,000. "[The cost of standard \$40 YoYoJam for someone in Poland is similar to cost of OXY4 for someone in [the] US." The only exception to this rule is the OXY, which is quite popular in Poland.

The biggest problem the Polish yoyoers face is a lack of official YoYo distributors. Duncan's are hard to find and the F.A.S.T. is not available. This leads to a lack of sponsors for players, which could sorely use sponsorship to afford to travel to the World YoYo Contest.

A Polish YoYo Association has tried several times to get off the ground, but has never stuck. As such, there is no official YoYo organization currently in Poland.

Thanks to the emerging democracy and Internet presence in Poland, the once closed Polish YoYo community is opening up. Players routinely communicate via the Polish YoYo Forum and other online forums and have been able to travel to events outside of Poland. The 2006 European YoYo Meeting will take place in Wroclaw, Poland in April or May. Polish players hope that this meeting will boost interest in YoYoing in Poland.



## Memories of a Tour of Poland

By Hans Van Den Elzen

Playmaxx was making it's way around the globe (30 countries by the end) and started to run out of viable markets. We weren't giving the YoYos away as subsidized promotional premiums like Russell, we were actually trying to sell \$10 YoYos. Currently around the globe markets that can afford \$10 YoYos are few. As the easy markets were knocked

down, we had to start reaching. I remember turning down a few (India, didn't want the diarrhea. South Africa, didn't want the violent random gunshot death). However, I did say yes to the Middle East and Poland. And as the "Cash Cow" of Playmaxx, my opinion of personal safety held weight. (I now regret not going to both South Africa and India, I think it would have been fantastic.)

Enthusiastic YoYo players in Poland. We attempted to sell ProYos in Poland but the economy was dismal. A \$10 YoYo was a big spend for a family that only earned maybe \$300 a month. We could attract large crowds, get plenty of participation. But when the price was announced the color would drop from their faces. We had the same problem in the Philippines (yet somehow managed to sell a couple Cold Fusions at full price). The importer was working on a shoestring so I was invited to stay at his home with his wife, parents, sister, and grandmother (imagine this entire family living in a college dorm room). A Polish home is typically a leftover grey eastern-block cement-block apartment building with re-bar handrails and no extravagances...like elevators. If the family had money, they stayed in a house, but the exterior was just as bleakly built with grey cement block. It was amazing to experience the upbeat positive nature of these people despite their surroundings.

We toured around in a White transit van and a Red Fiat Uno. I drive small cars, but the Uno made me fear for my life. The broken roads shook your bones in that little car. The Transit van was a billboard on 4 wheels that advertised to the police "pull us over and extort us." When the Polish police see a cargo van they pull it over and hassle the driver until the driver opens the doors and gives the cop some of the goods out of the van. I have to admit there are times when I wish a free YoYo could get me out of a speeding ticket here in America.

I quickly made friends with a couple of kids, Jakub (Kuba, 17) and Povell (19). Kuba was one of the better off kids, big house and a history of global travel. Povell was not as lucky. Povell worked at a skate shop earning his place in the world. (I may have confused Povell with Marek, I'm sure I will be corrected).

At the time Playmaxx was on a quest to find the best ProYo players from around the world and sponsor them to come to the USA for the World ProYo Championships, expenses paid. We'd had no problems in the past getting players from all over. Poland was a good example of how far we reached, only Russell had reached further. By the time the tour was over, Kuba and Povell had risen to the top as stars of the sport. Now the heartbreak began.

Kuba had an existing visa and history of travel with his family. No Problem. Povell, however, was considered a risk by the US embassy for travel. He fell into the age range and family status that considered him a risk to not return to Poland. We stood in line three times in Krakow to try and get his visa. They wouldn't allow me to join him during the interview and felt a YoYo contest was not a good enough excuse for travel. He said that while he was in the interview the guy next to him was singing opera trying to get a visa and was also denied. Then we learned that the more times you are denied, the more likely you are to be denied...we may have screwed his travel plans for eternity. Good kid, would have loved to have shown him America.

There was one more kid. I can't remember his name but he was around twelve years old. Spoke perfect English and was huge on personality. He learned everything we could teach him. I hope he stuck with the sport, as well as Kuba and Povell. I fell out of touch with everyone when Playmaxx hit the skids. So if you know Kuba, Povell, or the precocious little kid I mentioned, please give them my e-mail address. The FAST Challenge could be coming to Poland sometime in the near future.

*Hans Van Den Elzen is the President of YoYoFactory - Makers of the F.A.S.T. 201 YoYo.  
You can reach him at [yohans@yoyofactory.com](mailto:yohans@yoyofactory.com)*

# Yo-Yo Clubs

Clubs come and clubs go...to be safe, check with the contact person listed before you show up. If you would like your club listed, please contact us at: [jmitch@mitchells.com](mailto:jmitch@mitchells.com) or (302) 798-8171 with your club info.

## CALIFORNIA

### Alameda

The world famous Spin Doctors Yo-Yo Club has been holding monthly Yo-Yo meets since 1998, and is still going Strong. With the help of Gabe Lozano (aka Citadel), our club became world famous, and our tricks and our members showed the entire world what was possible with this neat little toy. The 2004 and 2003 National 1A champs are spindox, as well as the 2003 World 1A champ. Currently, we meet every 4th Saturday in Alameda, CA, with locations depending on the weather. For more information, or to be put on the mailing list, please contact David Capurro, founder of the Spin Doctors Yo-Yo Club, at [yoyopro@rawbw.com](mailto:yoyopro@rawbw.com)

### Los Angeles

The Golden Apple Yo-Yo Corps meets ("usually") the first Sunday of every month from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Golden Apple store (7711 Melrose Ave.) Hollywood. However, since the club has a very active performance schedule of parties, festivals and similar events which sometimes conflict, attendees should check with the Golden Apple Store (323) 658-6047 or check the web site [www.goldenapplecomics.com](http://www.goldenapplecomics.com) for up to date information. Meetings generally include team business, practice and group performance rehearsals. There is always time available for new yo-yoers at all skill levels. Team members range in age from 10-60 years old with several families as members. All skill levels are represented and several members hold regional, state and national titles. The team has been subject of numerous television, newspaper and magazine stories and have been featured characters in Archie Comic Books.

Golden Apple Comics  
7711 Melrose Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA 90046  
Ph. (323) 658-6047  
Fax (323) 852-9621  
[www.goldenapplecomics.com](http://www.goldenapplecomics.com)

### Redondo Beach

Sunshine Kite Company  
Held each Saturday and Sunday at 3. The Sunshine Kite Company is located on the Redondo Beach Pier. On the pier since 1974. Located at 110 Fisherman's Wharf, Redondo Beach, California 90277  
Where Torrance Blvd. Meets the Ocean Between new Tonys and El Toritos  
310-372-0308

### San Francisco

Team COY - Consortium of Yo  
Leader: Kiya Babzani  
E-mail me to join the e-mail list at: [kiya@anti-yo.com](mailto:kiya@anti-yo.com) - we meet every two or three weeks in San Francisco on Sundays at noon.

### Santa Cruz

WHEN: The second Saturday of each month at 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

WHERE: The park behind the Loudon Nelson Center in Santa Cruz (located at 301 Center St., Santa Cruz, CA 95060 on the corner of Center St. and Laurel St.) or inside the Loudon Nelson Center if raining.

WHO: Everyone is welcome! From very beginners to yo-yo masters.

WHAT TO BRING: yo-yos, diabolos, tops, juggling, poi, or any other skill toy.

Contact us at: [scyoyoclub@baymoon.com](mailto:scyoyoclub@baymoon.com)

## DELAWARE

### Wilmington

Mitchell's Trains, Toys and Hobbies hosts a yo-yo club that meets Mondays at 6 P.M. and Fridays at 4.. Plus every fourth Saturday There is no charge, bring your own yo-yo and join in! Complete your Team Spintastics patches! Or just trade tricks and learn new ones. Contact Joe Mitchell at (302) 652-3258 or e-mail at: [jmitch@mitchells.com](mailto:jmitch@mitchells.com). Also, check our web page at: <http://mitchells.com/yoyo> for most up-to-date info on meetings, special events, contests, etc.

## FLORIDA

### Tallahassee, Florida

T-Town Yo-Yo Posse  
Meets Thursday nights, 6 - 8 p.m..  
YoYos, Spin Tops, Juggling, Card Tricks, Diabolos, and Duck Feedings.  
Contact Lofty Pursuits for more info  
850-521-0091

## KENTUCKY

### Louisville, Kentucky

Kentuckiana Jugglers.  
Wednesday, 7:30-9 PM.  
St. Matthews Baptist Church  
3515 Grandview Avenue  
Louisville, KY 40207

Contact Alex Ayers by e-mail [yoyoalex@gmail.com](mailto:yoyoalex@gmail.com)

We have a group of people that meet every Wednesday night to juggle, yo-yo, spin tops, etc.

## IDAHO

### Priest River

String Cheese Meets Thursdays from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.  
Location: Priest River High School  
Contact: Russ Bean ([cckidusa@verizon.net](mailto:cckidusa@verizon.net))  
Or go to: <http://www.yo-yo.org/StringCheese/>  
Information about the club and its history is available on the web site.

## MAINE

### Portland, Maine

YoYo Night at Northern Sky Toyz. We happen every Wednesday Night, at 6 p.m.. At

Northern Sky Toyz,  
388 Fore St.,  
Portland Maine, 04101

The class is taught by Brandon Baines and Dana Bennet. Both are up and coming yo-yo champs! Dana won the Maine title and competed in the World Championship.

Brandon is the Maine State runner up. He also competed in the World Championship and is awesome at freestyling.

Together they lead the class and really inspire kids. They are very nice wonderful guys. Both are in high school.

We also have a newcomer to the sky Team, Anna. She use to attend our classes, and now helps teach them.

The class in an hour, and we will supply yo-yos to any kid for the class. Not to mention great prizes from Yomega and much more. Its a fun time!! Age 6-any!

# Yo-Yo Clubs (cont)

## MINNESOTA

### Hopkins

We meet the second and last Saturday of the month at the Depot Coffee house in Hopkins MN. People can contact 'Dazzling Dave' Schulte at dave@dazzlingdave or (763) 535-7587 for information.

### Roseville

Xtreme Spinners yo-yo clubs  
Air Traffic store - Roseville  
2nd and 4th Sunday of the month  
Time - 2 to 4

### Minneapolis

Xtreme Spinners yo-yo clubs  
Air Traffic store - Mall of America  
1st and 4th Sunday of the month  
Time - 12 to 2

### Eden Prairie

Xtreme Spinners yo-yo clubs  
Air Traffic store - Eden Prairie  
2nd Sunday of the month  
Time - 12 to 2

Please contact Mari McCabe 612 - 929 - 0610 for details.

## NEW YORK

### New York

A club is FORMING in NY / NYC. E-mail pat@yoyonation.com for more information.

## TEXAS

### Dallas/Ft. Worth

The Lone Star Spinners Club meets twice monthly, usually on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month. Meetings are held from 11:00 am - 12:30 p.m. at the Grapevine Public Library in Grapevine, Texas. Yo-yos, spin tops, diabolos and more!

Check [www.spintastics.com/lonestar](http://www.spintastics.com/lonestar) for club details and updates or e-mail club founder Valerie Oliver at <[lonestar@spintastics.com](mailto:lonestar@spintastics.com)> for more information. Players, wanna-be-players, collectors, and spin-lovers of all ages are welcome. All are welcome and the best part, it's FREE!

## VIRGINIA

### Merrifield, Virginia

The Yo-Yo Share, Show & Practice meets the third Wednesday of every month from 7 to 9 p.m. at Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Rd., Merrifield VA [in the room between the Gyms; go in the front entrance and turn left]. The school is located on Gallows Rd. at Route 50 just outside the DC Beltway. Info: Dick Stohr 703-451-3439 or [yoyoguy@erols.com](mailto:yoyoguy@erols.com), or Tom Connolly 703-321-9430 [cmayoo@aol.com](mailto:cmayoo@aol.com).

## WASHINGTON

### Kennewick, Washington

Howdy, we are 'Y2Yo-Yo' Skill Toy Club. We meet every Wednesday evening from 6 to 8 at the Kennewick Ranch & Home near the Columbia Center Mall in Kennewick Washington. We have been doing this for about 2 years, none of us know why. Many of the kids are too young to drive so their parents drove them to it. I drove a VW Jetta to it, but sometimes I drove a van to it. We work mostly on the Sport Ladder, 1A, 4A, 5A & Spin Tops. All Skill Toys are welcome and we go to as many competitions as possible, WA. St., Idaho St., Nats. & anything else we can afford. We are players & collectors & teachers "LEARN TO Yo-Yo" Contact John Bozung (509) 582-4844, leave a message or just show up!

### Seattle, Washington

CLUB NAME: StrungOut in the Northwest  
WHERE WE MEET: The Fun Forest @ Seattle Center

WHEN WE MEET: Right now, we meet one weekend a month, if that. But once I move from Bremerton to Seattle, which should be this spring, we will start having club meetings every weekend.

WHAT WE DO: We hang out, yo-yo, and exchange knowledge. Yo-yoing is a lot more fun when you have other people that you can learn from.

For more information, contact John Huber at [seearjaewun@hotmail.com](mailto:seearjaewun@hotmail.com)

Or by phone at (206) 679-7360.

## AYYA Vote Summaries

On 8/19/2005, Stu Branoff made the following motion- "I make a motion that we accept the vote and make the Reactor by Custom YoYos our AYYA Yo-Yo for 2005."

Vote:

Stu - Yes  
Richard - Yes  
Dave - Yes  
Dick - Yes  
Jim - Yes  
Jason - Yes  
Joe - Yes

Motion Passes unanimously

On the motion to elect Dave Schulte, unopposed, President of the AYYA.

Dick - Yes  
Dave - Yes  
Joe - Yes  
Richard - Yes  
Stu - Yes  
Jason - Yes  
Jim - Yes

Motion passes unanimously.

Dave Schulte made the following motion:

I make the motion that we add the "Off-String Front Whip" as a world record that we will track and confirm.

Joe seconded and voted yes  
Dave Schulte voted yes  
Jim voted yes  
Jason voted yes  
Dick voted yes  
Richard voted yes  
Stu voted yes

Motion passes 7-0

Dave Schulte made the following motion:

I would like to make a motion to send the footage of the AYYA World Records from Lucky to Josh Schlitchting to be converted to MiniDV format to later be uploaded to the members only section of the AYYA Web site. Once the footage has been converted, the raw tapes etc will be returned to Lucky.

Jason Seconded and voted Yes.  
Jim, Richard, Joe, Dick and Stu Voted Yes.

Motion passes by a vote of 7-0.

Jim Pankey made the following motion - "Motion to Host YYT web site on ayya.org"

Jim Pankey - voted Yes  
Dick Stohr - Seconded and Yes  
Dave Schulte - Yes  
Joe Mitchell - Yes  
Jason Parrish - Yes  
Doctor Popular - Yes  
Nathan Crissey - No Vote

Motion Passes 6-0.

# Recent Contests

## Indy Yo-Yo Fest/Indiana State Contest

Indianapolis, Indiana

April 9, 2005

### State Championship (Ladder)

Congratulations to Paul Brill – The 2005 Indiana State Yo-Yo Champion!

Note: Ties for 1st/2nd and 3rd/4th were broken based on first trick missed. Others were left as ties.

1	Paul Brill	25
2	Rob Kitts	25
3	Tim Simmons	21
4	Ross Feller	21
5	Ian Cole	20
5	Jackson Byam	20
7	Conner Ebbinghouse	16
7	Dennis Shatter	16
9	Brad DeYoung	15
9	Mitchell Levy	15
9	Randy Jansen	15
9	Steven Chase	15
13	Bill Wolfe	13
13	Serg Chernetsky	13
15	Rob Armin	11
16	Torri Stanley	10
16	Tyler Ebbinghouse	10
18	Scott Bender	8

### Freestyle Division

1	Rob Kitts	176
2	Kyle Pearson	138
3	Dennis Shatter	137
4	Paul Brill	134
5	Noel Kunz	120
6	John-Bot	119
7	Seth Peterson	112
8	Ross Feller	99
9	Jackson Byam	76
10	Randy Jansen	73
11	Ian Cole	72
12	Steven Chase	70
13	Scott Bender	49
14	Rob Armin	48
15	Tyler Ebbinghouse	34
16	Conner Ebbinghouse	8

### Festival Division (Beginner/Intermediate)

#### Under 9

1	Jonah Bukowsky	20
<b>9-12</b>		
1	Jonathon Bukowsky	35
2	Jonathon McBride	30
3	Seth Moore	28

#### 13+

1	Jeff Moore	31
2	Thomas Borg	21

Visit <http://iyyf.learntoyoyo.com> for more information.

## Mid-Atlantic Regionals

Wilmington, Delaware

April 23, 2005

### Sport Division

Age	Name	Tricks Completed	Hometown
10 & Under	Lucas Serge	13/7	Wilmington, DE
10 & Under	Jake Lindell	11/6	Wilmington, DE
10 & Under	Peter Brown	10/3	Wilmington, DE
10 & Under	Nick Sherwin	9/7	Wilmington, DE
10 & Under	Wesley Ricker	9/4	Middletown, DE
10 & Under	Aidan Gioso	5/5	Wilmington, DE
10 & Under	Pete Grasso	4/5	Wilmington, DE
10 & Under	Jeremy Hatkevich	4/3	Wilmington, DE
10 & Under	Steven Masley	2/4	Wilmington, DE
11-12	Matt Dougherty	14/10	Wilmington, DE
11-12	Kyle Gilley	9/8	Wilmington, DE
11-12	Aidan Gregore	9/5	Wilmington, DE
11-12	Lee Jones	8/9	Wilmington, DE
11-12	Blaise Gioso	8/4	Wilmington, DE
11-12	Darion Founds	5/7	Wilmington, DE
11-12	Luke Skywalker	5/7	Wilmington, DE
11-12	Dean Masley	3/4	Wilmington, DE
13-16	Joey Fleshman	21/17	Virginia Beach, VA
13-16	Alex Brant	21/16	Perryville, MD
13-16	Ann Connolly	15/13	Springfield, VA
13-16	Ryan Papich	14/9	Denver, PA
13-16	Dane Moore	12/8	Stevens, PA
13-16	Vickram Prematuner	11/12	Media, PA
13-16	Chris Janiszewski	11/10	Denver, PA
13-16	Riley Wasson	9/7	Virginia Beach, VA
13-16	Melanie Ricker	8/5	Middletown, DD
13-16	Katelyn Anton	4/6	Colora, MD
13-16	Luke Hildenbrand	4/5	Chesapeake, VA
13-16	Ian Pritchard	2/3	Media, PA
17-29	AJ Kirk	25/25	New Castle, DE
17-29	Mike Morris	22/21	Rehoboth Beach, DE
17-29	Matt Cahill	22/11	Grove City, PA
17-29	Raleigh Booze	20/22	Wilmington, DD
17-29	Jared Unruh	13/7	Ephrata, PA
30+	Tom Connolly	23/18	Springfield, VA
30+	Tim Redmond	21/20	Pennsburg, PA
30+	Hanno Beck	16/18	Baltimore, MD
30+	Andrew Brant	12/9	Perryville, MD

### A Division

Name	Score	Hometown
1 - Justin Weber	61.45	Newark, DE
2 - Shane Karan	58.04	Millville, NJ
3 - Sebastian Brock	57.29	Fredericksburg, VA
4 - Mikhail Tulabut	55.67	Chesapeake, VA
5 - Joey Fleshman	29.14	
6 - Tressley Cahill	28.13	Bear, DE
7 - Brian Cosky	26.71	Millbury, MA
8 - Matt Oberly	24.72	Stevens, PA
9 - Alex Jacobs	22.79	Honesdale, PA
10 - Ryan Papich	19.77	Denver, PA
11 - Devin Ramsey	8.97	Stevens, PA
12 - Alex Brant	7.22	Perryville, MD
13 - Joshua Malave	7.17	Olyphant, PA

### Y Division

Name	Score	Hometown
1 - Pat Cuartero	61.70	New York, NY
2 - Camden Moriarity	59.59	Whatley, MA
3 - Sebastian Brock	46.68	Fredericksburg, VA
4 - Luke Smith	39.88	Wilmington, DE
5 - AJ Kirk	33.50	New Castle, DE
6 - Alex Brant	14.16	Perryville, MD

## Bay Area Contest

San Mateo, California

May 17, 2005

### Pennsylvania State Yo-Yo Contest

West Chester, Pennsylvania

May 28, 2005

### Single A

Name	Age	Free+(comp)=(total)
1. Matt Oberly	16	44.75 (41.3) [86.05]
2. Tom Connolly	45	47.5 (27.6) [75.1]
3. Pat Cuartero	24	37 (32.6) [69.6]
4. Devin Ramsey	16	40.5 (21.6) [62.1]
5. Jesse Christe	11	26.75 (34.6) [61.35]
6. Alex Brant	13	31.0 (29.3) [60.3]
7. Ryan Papich	16	24.25 (19.3) [43.55]
8. Brandon Murphy	16	22.25 (20) [42.25]
9. Matt Kendall	19	24.5 (14.6) [39.1]
10. Kyle Fones	17	12.25 (8.3) [20.55]
11. Josh Malave	13	2.0 (17.6) [19.6]
12. Alex Dimocenzo	16	0 (0) [0]

### Y Division

Name	Age	Score
1. AJ Kirk	19	61
2. Pat Cuartero	24	48.75
3. Alex Brant	13	2.25

### Overall Sport Ladder

Name	Age	Score
1. Pat Cuartero	24	218
2. Matt S. Oberly	16	150
3. Tom Connolly	45	142
4. Alex Brant	13	124
5. Jesse Christe	11	104
6. AJ Kirk	19	95
7. Ann Connolly	13	91
8. Andy Brant	42	82
9. Aidan Gregore	16	76
10. Jake Lindell	10	72

### Sport Ladder, 30 and over

Name	Age	Score
1. Tom Connolly	45	142
2. Andy Brant	42	82
3. Mike Jalboot	30	63

### Sport Ladder, 17-29

Name	Age	Score
1. Pat Cuartero	24	218
2. AJ Kirk	19	95
3. Matt Kendall	19	54
4. Kyle Fones	17	36

### Sport Ladder, 11-16

Name	Age	Score
1. Matt S. Oberly	16	150
2. Alex Brant	13	124
3. Jesse Christe	11	104
4. Ann Connolly	13	91
5. Aidan Gregore	12	76
6. Devin Ramsey	16	70
7. Vickram Premakumar	13	68
8. Chris Janiszewski	15	68
9. Brandon Murphy	13	60
10. Ryan Papich	16	58
11. Kyle Gilley	13	55

# Recent Contests

12. Dane Moore	15	54
13. Josh Malave	13	53
14. Blaise Giroso	11	53
15. Ian Pritchard	13	50
16. Matt Dougherty	12	38
17. Katelyn Anton	14	36
18. Jake Bullock	14	20
19. Sean Davis	12	18
20. Eric Stephens	12	13

## Sport Ladder, 10 and under

Name	Age	Score
1. Jake Lindell	10	72
2. Lucas Serge	9	43
3. John Reynolds	10	21
4. Aidan Giroso	8	20
5. Josh Ellis	10	10
6. Isaak Holsapple	10	10

## World Records Set

Record Name	Age	Time
100m while looping (one-handed), juniors division		
Alex Brant	13	20.58s
Longest sleeper (fixed-axle to extinction), open division		
Tim Redmond	30	1m 16.53s
Longest sleeper (transaxle to extinction), open division		
Tim Redmond	30	16m 17.185s

## Local Sponsors

Hobbytown USA • Boarderline • The Mod Squad •  
Sleeper Interactive

## Texas State Contest

Dallas, Texas  
June 4, 2005

## 1A Championship

1st Jesse Garcia - Dallas  
2nd Nate Haefner - Mansfield  
3rd Poncho Hughes - San Antonio

## 1S String Sport Ladder

### 9 & Under

1st Michael Bayern - Houston  
2nd Noah LaFon - Grand Prairie  
3rd Connor Aiken - Grapevine

### 10-12

1st Dylan Edwards - Katy  
2nd Corban LaFon - Grand Prairie  
3rd Brady Davis

### 13-16

1st Matt Barr - Carrollton  
2nd Michael Barr - Carrollton  
3rd Brett Stroup - Princeton

### 17-29

1st Minhdao Hoang - Pearland  
2nd Darren Hollander - Dallas  
3rd Mario Castellanos - Dallas

### 30 & over

1st Larry Kilby - Dallas  
2nd Glenn Stone - Dallas  
3rd Bobby Fisher - Farmersville

## 2S Looping Sport Ladder

### 9 & Under

1st Michael Bayern - Houston  
2nd Noah LaFon - Grand Prairie  
3rd Connor Aiken - Grapevine

### 10-12

1st Christopher LaFon - Grand Prairie  
2nd Ryan Aiken - Grapevine  
3rd Dylan Edwards - Katy

### 13-16

1st Brett Stroup - Princeton  
2nd Geoffrey Purcell - Carroll  
3rd Matt Barr - Carrollton

### 30 & over

1st Larry Kilby - Dallas  
2nd Glenn Stone - Dallas  
3rd Bobby Fisher - Farmersville

## Overall Sport Ladder

1st Larry Kilby - Dallas  
2nd Glenn Stone - Dallas  
3rd Brett Stroup - Princeton

## Spin Top Championship

1st Dave Bazan - Bedford  
2nd Kostas Pagoulatos - Bedford  
3rd Shelby Floyd

## Spin Top Ladder 13-16

1st Kostas Pagoulatos - Bedford  
2nd Shelby Floyd  
3rd Matt Barr - Carrollton

For information, see <http://www.spintastics.com/texascontest.asp>

## Iowa State Yo-Yo Contest

Ankeny, Iowa  
June 11, 2005

## Northeast Regional Yo-Yo Contest

Northhampton, Massachusetts  
June 12, 2005

## BEGINNER DIVISION

Name	Age	Score
1 Fried, Avery	8	45
2 Kanig, Maxx	8	42
3 Cottrell, Andy	8	38
1 Remiszewski, Simon	11	40
2 Boulay, Jaime	14	36
1 Fried, David	45	38
2 Schubmehl, Jeanne	45	31

## SPORTS LADDER

Name	Age	String	Loop	TOTAL
1 Sutter, Zachary	6	6	1	7
2 Dietz, Zachary	7	4	2	6
10 Scott, Corey	8	1	1	2
9 Stewart, Matthew	9	1	3	4
8 Aneur, Amina	9	3	3	6
7 Mollan, Tylor	8	4	2	6
6 Bethell, Isaiah	9	4	3	7
5 Dietz, Daniel	10	5	3	8
4 Dolmanisth, Taliesin	8	7	3	10
3 Fogarty, Quinn	10	8	4	12
2 Hooker, Jake	10	10	3	13
1 O'Sullivan, Kieran	10	11	5	16

6 Kanig, Sara	11	2	2	4
5 Sloan, Cameron	13	5	3	8
4 Rudin, Philip	14	9	0	9
3 Scott, Ryan	12	11	3	14
2 Aneur, Josef	12	9	7	16
1 Fogarty, Taf	12	13	12	25
2 Frederick, Devon	20	8	3	11
1 Gartner, Jillian	16	11	3	14
6 Sponburgh, Cheryl	52	6	1	7
5 Aneur, Alicia	36	8	3	11
4 Liu, Michael	44	8	7	15
3 Stohr, Dick	65	10	7	17
2 Quinn, Daniel	33	15	4	19
1 Wright, Grahame	32	15	9	24

## Single A Division

1 Stevens, Peter	79.78
Northeast Regional Champion	
2 Montgomery, Mark	76.55
3 Koloski, Eric	72.74
4 Cooper, Jordan	71.75
5 Baines, Brandon	65.02
6 Ferrante, Brett	61.93
7 Cosky, Brian	59.64
8 Bennett, Dana	56.76
9 Almanzar, David	48.88
10 Gartner, Brahm	36.07
11 Coons, Jeff	34.96
12 Ferdico, Michael	34.16
13 Bein, Ethan	29.37
14 Gumlaw, Nick	29.24
15 Piscitelli, Andrew	28.85
16 Cuartero, Pat	16.24
17 Bethell, Solana	15.98
18 Daole-Wellman, Gordie	12.19

## X-Division Final Standings

1 Cuartero, Pat	77.49
2 Moriarty, Camden	75.38
3 Bennett, Dana	69.71
4 Almanzar, David	60.15
5 Coons, Jeff	54.27
6 Bein, Ethan	44.98

For more information, visit [www.mastermagic.net](http://www.mastermagic.net)

## MidWest Regionals

Minneapolis, Minnesota  
June 18, 2005

## Sport Ladder:

### 0-10 years

1st Ryne Hanson 18pts  
2nd Anders Nygaard 10pts  
3rd Nathan Alstad 10pts

### 11-12 years

1st Jacob Fossing 13pts  
2nd Juneau Motzko 12pts  
3rd Cole Mickelson 10pts  
4th Peter Vermeland 5pts  
5th Micah Jessen 5pts

### 13-14 years

1st Matthew Eastwood 30pts  
2nd John Domanski 19pts  
3rd Joel Reis 14pts

# Recent Contests

## 36-up years

- 1st Brian Hanson 19pts
- 2nd Chadd Gromaski 18pts
- 3rd Chris Larson 17pts
- 4th Lee Grimm 6pts
- 5th Dan Domanski 5 pts

## Overall Ladder

- 1st Matthew Eastwood 30pts
- 2nd John Domanski 19pts
- 3rd Brian Hanson 19pts

## Champion Ladder

(players who also were in the A or Y division freestyles)

- 1st Dennis Shatter 35pts
- 2nd Ryan Freitas 34pts
- 3rd Alex Berenguel 34pts
- 4th John Narum 33pts
- 5th Rob Kitts 31pts
- 6th Conner Scholten 29pts
- 7th Erick Phommonongxay 28 pts
- 8th John Russeth 19pts
- 9th Alex Ulrich 19pts

## A Division

- 1st John Narum 30.00
- 2nd Dennis Shatter 25.04
- 3rd Conner Scholten 24.30
- 4th John Russeth 24.25
- 5th Paul Yath 23.72
- 6th Jake Maloney 22.96
- 7th Ryan Freitas 21.32
- 8th Erick Phommonongxay 20.81
- 9th Sebastian Brock 18.74
- 10th Rob Kitts 18.23
- 11th Kevin Gretch 14.32
- 12th Harry Houdini 13.53
- 13th Matthew Eastwood 13.18
- 14th Alex Ulrich 12.64
- 15th Nate Shurilla 10.59
- 16th Abraham Zialmehr 10.09
- 17th Josh Jessen 9.51
- 18th Juneau Motzko 9.21
- 19th Daniel Reifenberger 4.20
- 20 Ben Warburton 2.77
- 21 Tony Haynes 2.69

## A Division Finals

- 1st John Narum 49.37
- 2nd Alex Berenguel 41.53
- 3rd Jake Maloney 38.68
- 4th Conner Scholten 36.28
- 5th Dennis Shatter 36.27
- 6th Rob Kitts 31.18
- 7th David Poyzer 29.70
- 8th Ryan Freitas 25.54
- 9th Paul Yath 24.63
- 10th Sebastian Brock 22.58
- 11th John Russeth 20.20
- 12th Erick Phommonongxay 16.74

## Y-Division

- 1st John Narum 48.16
- 2nd Paul Yath 39.20
- 3rd A.J. Kirk 38.22
- 4th Rob Kitts 37.36
- 5th Josh Jessen 36.04
- 6th David Poyzer 30.56
- 7th Sebastian Brock 27.48
- 8th Alex Willden 25.80
- 9th Dennis Shatter 25.64

- 10th Conner Scholten 23.90
- 11th Alex Ulrich 17.00
- 12th Ryan Freitas 16.93
- 13th Jake Maloney 15.85
- 14th Erick Phommonongxay 11.42

## Bill Liebowitz Classic (Southwest Regionals)

Los Angeles, California  
June 25, 2005

## Regional A-

- 1-Adam Dennehy
- 2-Mark Mikamoto
- 3-Kyler Yazzie

## Indie Freestyle

- 1-Farah Siegle
- 2-Mark Mikamoto
- 3-Kyler Yazzie

## Sponsored Freestyle

- 1-Augie Fash
- 2-Paul Yath
- 3-Pat Mitchell

## Imperial Off-string Challenge

Mark Mikamoto

## Mid-East Regional

Indianapolis, Indiana  
August 6, 2005

## Single A

Name	Score
1. Jake Maloney	89.84848
2. Martin Tomanik	89.25487
3. Rob Kitts	74.1957
4. Rodrigo Yokota (Whip)	73.04928
5. Connor Scholten	64.91248
6. Jon-Bot	62.2724
7. Paul Yath	40.65217
8. Ian Cole	34.19748
9. Juneau Motzko	31.35776
10. Nate Shurilla	12.34135

## Y Division

Name	Score
1. Rob Kitts	93.99022
2. Paul Yath	93.96226
3. Jake Maloney	53.95799
4. AJ Kirk	53.05433
5. Connor Scholten	44.25851
6. Ian Cole	34.94291
7. Nick Ramos	33.38046
8. Alex Ulrich	22.39126
9. Connor Ebbinghouse	16.62725
10. Juneau Motzko	13.66606
11. Ian Johnson	-21.8973

## Overall Sport Ladder

Name	Score
1. Rob Kitts	46
2. Jake Maloney	43
3. Paul Yath	41
4. Paul Brill	29
5. Jon-Bot	26
6. Ben Hoppes	20
7. Tim Redmond	20
8. Matt Cahill	16
9. Juneau Motzko	14

- 10. Rodrigo Yokota (Whip) 14
- 11. Tyler Ebbinghouse 13
- 12. Emmett Yeager 11
- 13. Nathan Causino 11
- 14. Aaron Forwerck 11
- 15. Ian Johnson 10
- 16. Steven Chase 9
- 17. Ross Feller 8
- 18. Terry Ulmer 8
- 19. Brad DeYoung 6
- 20. Elijah Mills 4
- 21. Andy Smith 4

## California State YoYo Contest

Berkeley, California  
August 14, 2005

## South Central Regional

(formerly Mid-America Regional)  
Bedford, Texas  
August 27, 2005

## Single A:

- 1st: Jesse Garcia
- 2nd: Poncho
- 3rd: JB Hewatt

## Y Division:

- 1st: Paul Yath
- 2nd: Miguel Correa
- 3rd: Derrick

## Overall Sports Ladder

- 1st: Boyd Seth
- 2nd: Matt Barr
- 3rd: Crazy Larry

# Upcoming Events

## National YoYo Contest Chico, California

October 1, 2005

For more information, visit <http://www.nationalyoyo.org>

## YoYo Championship of Southern California

Palm Desert, California  
January 14, 2006

For more information, visit <http://www.yotopia.com/events.htm>

## Washington State YoYo Championship

Seattle, Washington  
February 11, 2006

For more information, visit <http://www.x-project.us/PacificNWChampionships.htm>

## Midwest Regional YoYo Championships

Mall of America, Minnesota  
June 17, 2006

For more information, visit <http://www.dazzlingdave.com/mwr/mwr.html>



# Official American Yo-Yo Association Membership Application

## BENEFITS

- Collectible AYYA Membership Card
- Embroidered (5 Color) AYYA Member Patch
- Three Yearly Issues of the Famous AYYA Newsletter
- Voting Privileges in Industry and AYYA Topics
- E-mail link on official AYYA web page
- Personal YO-YO web page link on AYYA web page.

...and much, much more.

## AYYA MISSION

*The mission of AYYA is to provide a venue for players and collectors to come together in fellowship and to engage in the promotion of yo-yo playing as an art form and a sport, for both amateur and professional players. It is also to render assistance to fellow yo-yo players and collectors; to provide an accessible source of information about yo-yo people and events; to conduct as many competitions as possible across the nation; and to establish uniform standards for running AYYA sanctioned competitions for all levels of skill from the novice to the professional.*

*Membership also helps support AYYA contests, prizes, activities and on-going efforts to establish yo-yoing as an international sport. To join, fill out the form below and send, along with your check or money order to:*

AYYA  
PO Box 797  
Valrico, Florida 33595

## DUES

### United States Members Membership Dues (US Dollars)

- Active Member (First Year).....\$20
- Renewal Member -
  - 1 Year .....\$18
  - 3 Years.....\$50
- Family Membership.....\$25  
(Includes 2 persons, add \$5 for each additional family member)
- Full-Time Student (per year) .....\$15
- Newsletter subscription only (3 issues).....\$10

### International Members

Canada/Mexico add \$4 USD/year  
Outside North America, add \$8 USD/year

Check One

☐

New

☐

Renewal

Check all that Apply:

☐

Player

☐

Collector

☐

Student

☐

Yo-Pro (gets paid)

☐

Sales/Mfg

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_



**The American YO-YO Association  
PO Box 797  
Valrico, Florida 33595**

**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**



**FIRST CLASS US MAIL  
PLEASE RUSH**



**ARE YOUR DUES DUE? How to renew your current Active Membership or  
upgrade your Associate life Membership:**

We look forward to receiving your current dues of renewals for 2005 and beyond. Please look at the mailing label on this page. You will see a the month and year which your dues are paid through. If the date reads November , 2005 or earlier, **THIS IS YOUR LAST ISSUE OF THE AYYA NEWSLETTER!**

You are considered an active member until the last day of the month listed on your label and are entitled to all benefits of an active member of the AYYA, thus you are receiving this issue of the AYYA Newsletter.

To pay your dues, please send a check or money order (in US Dollars, please) to the return address on this newsletter. It is best to include the Newsletter's official AYYA Membership Application and mark it as a 'renewal.'

Be sure to include any address changes and your

e-mail address so that we can update the AYYA Membership roster. If you are not sure how much dues are, please refer to the AYYA Membership application in this newsletter.

The AYYA also offers a three (3) year renewal rate at \$50. Save money!

Dues are due the last day of the month your dues are paid through. If we do not receive your dues, we automatically reclassify your membership to an Inactive Membership level. We will also send you a reminder postcard indicating your dues as past due and the reclassification of your membership level.

Once again, thanks for your continued support of the American Yo-Yo Association and we look forward to meeting you at a future event.